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Farmers urge slaughter of older animals as Europe confirms ban on beef

# Kill our cows and save farming'

DONALD MACINTYRE PAUL FIELD AND SARAH HELM

Farmers last night conceded what minsters have so far refused to accept - that only a cull of their herds can restore confidence in British beef. In an unprecedented plea to the Prime Minister, John Major, they urged the removal of at least 15,000 older cattle a week from the food chain at a cost of

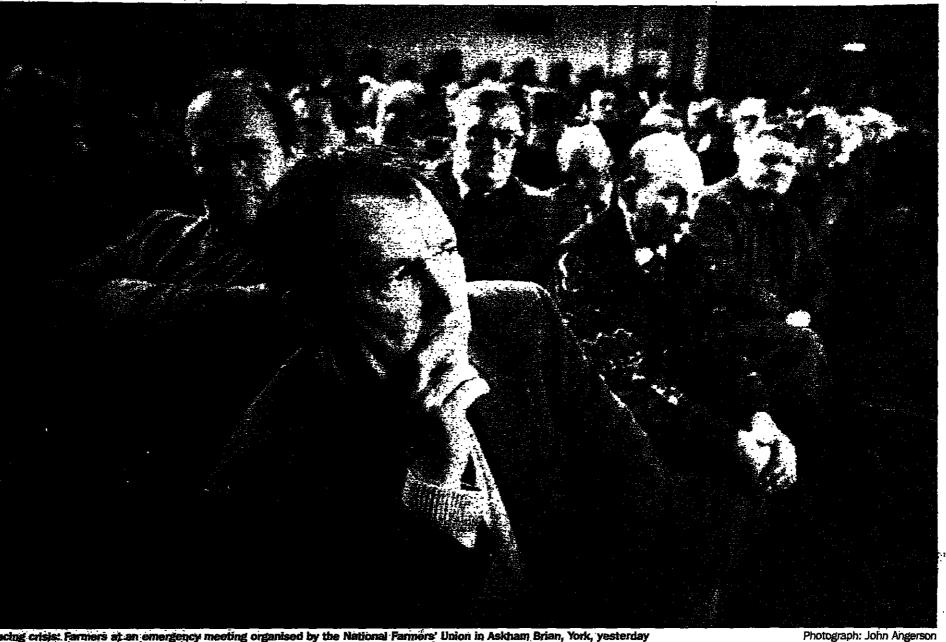
The scheme, which has already been presented to ministers, would mean the carcasses of the slaughtered cattle would be incinerated rather than used in meat products.

The National Farmers' Union President, Sir David Naish, said: "The events of the gone beyond the stage of rely-ing solely on science."

In the first indication of a Government U-turn over the crisis, Mr Major promised he would consdier the call for selective slaughter "very carefully" but made it clear that if he had to take such measures he would lay the blame squarely on the Opposition for "undermining confidence" in the beef in-

ustry. Mr Major was speaking as it became clear in Brussels that the European Commission will today confirm its ban on British beef sales despite last-mimite

to consider each help for British sis by slaughtering cattle. At the same time, Whitehall sources were not ruling out the prospect that Mr Major will raise the issue of the beef ban, which ministers have described as "outrageous" when he goes to Turin on Friday for the Inter-Governmental Conference on the EU's future.



Eaching crisis: Farmers at an emergency meeting organised by the National Farmers' Union in Askham Brian, York, yesterday

clear that ministers would study proposals, made in the letter from Sir David, for 12,900 to 15,000 cows being destroyed each week instead of being killed for meat. Sir David called

Commons, Mr Major made it at the end of their working lives as dairy cows or suckling mothers to be banned from entering

the human food chain.

The proposal, backed by leading food manufacturing. catering and retailing industry In angry exchanges in the for cattle normally slanghtered leaders, came as Ministry of

Agriculture officials began exploring their chances of secur-ing EU funds to compensate farmers for losing the profits from sending dairy cows no longer providing milk to be

slaughtered for beef. There were clear signs of ir-

credence to the idea of largescale slaughter by publicly airing the option at the weekend. It was left to Stephen Dorrell the Health Secretary, to conduct

ritation among senior ministers a media blitz throughout the farmers for unnecessarily with Douglas Hogg, Minister for Agriculture, for having given the day – including some rough handling by angry housewives handling by angry housewives and famers on a radio phonein show during which he argued there were better ways of spending huge sums on public

slaughtered cows. In the Commons, Mr Major reserved his

public anger for the Opposition. Tony Blair, the Lubour leader, accused the Government of "mind boggling incompetence" and demanded that Mr

Major quantify the "extremely small" risk of contracting the human disease CJD from BSEinfected meat. Mr Major retorted: "It will be extremely dif-ficult to restore confidence if MPs continue to undermine that confidence for reasons I think will seem unfathomable to people in the agricultural in-

dustry and to the wider public." Sir David's letter to Mr Major and to leaders of the Opposition parties said the NFU supported Government policy of relying on its scientific advisers and insisted that the measures it had so far taken met "all food safety needs".

But then in a passage which looks increasingly likely to secure a partial reversal of Monday's decision not to remove tens of thousands of cattle from the food chain. Sir David wrote: I have now concluded that despite the reassurance offered [on Monday] by the Secretary of State for Health in relation to the consumption of beef products by children, more must be done to restore consumer confidence both in the domestic market and in Britain's export markets in Europe and the rest of the world."

Sir David also said pointedly that the EU, announcing its planned worldwide ban on the sale of British beef, had made it clear "that it will only reconsider the ban on British exports if further moves have been made to reassure the public on the safety of British beef. The NFU is also calling for a slaughter scheme for young calves as the market for yeal meat has virtually disappeared with the EU ban announced yesterday.

The proposal canvassed by Commission experts yesterday phased slaughter of dairy cows, the animals most prone to the disease. According to one estimate, the Commission might consider compensation of up to £2billion should Britain agree to the slaughter of 700,000 dairy cows.

Ban 'is the only choice', page 2 The killer protein, page 17 BSE and Europe, page 19

# Council blocks report on child victims

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

A council-voted yesterday to suppress an independent report into one of Britain's worst child sex abuse scandals because of fears that it could help seriously damaged victims in their legal

The decision by Clwyd Couninsurers Municipal Mutual, who threatened to cancel the authority's cover against a possible £20m in compensation from abused former residents of care

H's the

Business.

esque" - while the affair could set worrying precedents for the gagging of future council-initiated inquiries. That is because

France and Germany yesterday

laid out plans to create a single

currency which would in effect

relegate Britain to the slow

After a long period when

prospects for monejary union ...

have seemed to be in abeyance.

idea a political boost ahead of

Friday's Turin summit. The

meeting is being called to

rewrite the Maastricht treaty.

which first set out the goal of

lane of a two-speed Europe.

MARY DEJEVSKY

Vew child abuse scandal

How the Independent revealed the scandal in 1991.

duty to protect children by revealing the mistakes and failings

homes in the county.

Welsh Labour MPs condemned the move as "Kafkait appears to establish that a have cost at least £500,000, but separate prosecutions brought preservation of professional

council's duty to protect its fi- most of the 40 copies in circuty Council came after an nances from legal action will all lation will now be pulped after eleventh-hour intervention by its ways take precedence over its all but a handful of Clwyd's 64

> The inquiry team, led by for-mer Derbyshire social services director John Gillings, began work two years ago amid widespread concern about sexual and physical abuse in North Wales children's homes. The report into seven Clwyd homes is estimated by Labour MPs to

The French and German fi-

nance ministers, Jean Arthuis

and Theo Waigel, met in the

French town of Laval to set out

ideas on how monetary union should operate. They said that they were determined to laimch

a single currency by the 1999

deadline laid down in the EU

Maastricht treaty, despite the

Mr Waigel said that the

timetable for monetary union

must be stuck to. "We plan to stick to the timetable since

Boun and Paris plan to give the rounds the prospects for both rency - at its heart.

councillors opted to halt publication.

The investigation covered one of the longest-running and most serious abuse scandals involving children in local authority care. From 2,000 statements and 150 complaints, 58 files were sent to the Crown Prosecution Service, but just seven men were eventually convicted of sex abuse or assault in

Britain faces two-speed Europe

change rate tensions," he said. Mr Arthuis said France and

Germany had agreed on the

need for a system governing ex-change rate relations between

those who join a single Euro-

pean currency in 1999 and

those who stay outside. This

would recreate the European

Monetary System, but with the

The exchange rate mechanism would allow for "inter-

vention by the European central

bank, with the Euro as the an-

chor point," Mr Arthuis said.

during a four-year police investigation covering 46 homes

John Allen, formerly of the Bryn Alyn Home, Wrexham, was jailed for six years for sex offences against boys. Peter Howarth, former deputy head of the council-run Bryn Estyn, near Wrexham, was jailed for 10 years for assaulting seven boys between 1974 and 1984.

According to North Wales sources, among a host of findings the report criticises Clwyd social services' running of its own homes, the infrequency of visits to homes by the Welsh Office's Social Services Inspectorate, and inadequate responses by the authorities to signs that children in care might be being abused.

The interests of the children . often took second place to the

which allow their currencies to

slide against the Euro. "We do

not want to make way for com-

petitive devaluations," Mr

Arthuis said. The plan would

mean that Britain could be

asked to maintain a parity

against the Euro - recreating the

disastrous scenario which led to

the pound's exit from the ex-

change rate mechanism in 1992.

ministers had also discussed

plans to create a new body

within the EU that would set

economic policy - and from

which Britain would be ex-

cluded if it chose not to enter

Mr Arthuis said that the two



GANG BANG

positions, the report is understood to say. The interviewing methods of the North Wales Police are also said to have been raised, and the report highlights the need for a judicial inquiry because of the refusal of some

a single currency. "We are talk-

ing about a council made up of

ministers in the third phase [of

European monetary union]." he

told reporters. This would coun-

terbalance the future Euro-

pean central bank, which would

run monetary policy.

should be delayed.

witnesses to speak to the

Clwyd hurriedly called off a press conference to launch the report last Friday after Browne Jacobson, solicitors for the Municipal Mutual, insisted that its contents could help up to 40 abuse victims secure compensation for their suffering. Some former residents were so traumatised by their childhood exneriences in the homes that they later committed suicide.

Municipal Mutual got into financial difficulties in 1991, is in a "solvent run-off" situation and is prevented from writing new business. Outstanding busi ness is being handled by Zurich Mutual.

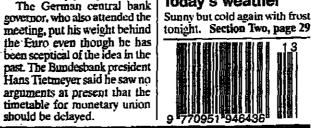
Councillors were also warned that they could be made personally liable for legal payrisking bankruptcy.
TURN TO PAGE 3

#### IN BRIEF

Fighting chance The Army is considering sending women into the front line as members of tank and infantry

Crime rate falls The number of recorded crimes fell by 2.4 per cent last year in England and Wales Page 5

England and Wales Today's weather



AND YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE

monetary union.

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economic gloom which sur- Euro - the new European cur-

everything else could lead to ex- The idea is to penalise countries

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# EU set to confirm ban on exports

SARAH HELM Brussels

The European Commission will today attempt to halt the crisis over British beef by confirming an unprecedented total ban on British heef exports to the EU and the rest of the world. In the face of fierce British protests the Commission argues that it has no choice but to impose the ban in order to maintain confidence in the EU beef market.

However, the Commission decision has been taken in an atmosphere of intense confusion in Brussels, with little clear legal or scientific busis. The Commission has come under intense pressure to take a firm lead, and blame Britain for giving it no warning of the alarm.

**Birds** 

stops

making

burgers

Production of beefburgers was

halted by the frozen-food com-

pany Birds Eye yesterday as the

effects of the collapse in consumer confidence caused by

the BSE scare reverberated

and restaurant chains also

joined the move away from

British beef, but most super-

market chains said they would

continue to stock it and it will

remain on the menu at Buck-

at its plant in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

which employs 1,000 people.

was another blow for farmers.

But the company said it would

A company statement said: "Whilst we remain confident

about the quality and safety of

our beef products, we have de-

cided that in the light of con-

tinued consumer concerns we

are reviewing the use of British

beef and are considering options

and product reformulations.

said: "This was in acknowledgement of our passengers'

concerns. Following detailed

examination of current facts we have readjusted our menus.

We still offer beef where beef

is an option, such as Argentin-

ian beef or Scottish beef which

A spokesman for Guy's and

beef off the paediatric menu but

on the adult menu it is not

sourced from within the UK ....

None of our patients wanted to

Hospital Trust in Oxfordshire.

informed decision".

be clearly labelled.

W

has been farmed organically."

not lead to redundancies.

The decision by Birds Eve to suspend beefburger production

ingham Palace.

through the food industry. Airlines and some hospitals

WILL BENNETT and

ROBERT CRANE

and therefore little time to preempt the crisis. While Britain has accused the European Commission of taking unjustitied action by imposing a ban. the Commission argues that the ban is the minimum necessary to contain the problem.

At one point during the dis-

cussions it is understood that Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, canvassed the idea of banning the marketing of British beef throughout the EU, including Britain. A marketing han would have been far more serious than an export ban, leading to the immediate removal of all beef products of Europe's shelves.

The Commission has an obligation under the EU treaties to protect the health and safety of all consumers, and questions have been raised about whether Brussels should not take action to protect British consumers too. However, this proposal was swiftly set aside in view of the political

storm it would cause. The sense of confusion in Brussels intensified yesterday when even the export ban, first announced by Mr Fischler on Monday evening, following advice from

Europe's chief veterinary officers last night rejected Britain's request that the

Brussels. Up to last night European Commission officials were refusir

products" should be excluded from the world-wide boycott, writes Katherine Bu

exhaustive list of the products which would be hit but said they intended the day "all-embracing". Obvious victims would be stock cubes soup intest, beer flavouring all-embracing containing beef flavouring, gravy granules made from beer essentially the containing beef flavouring.

But foods containing gelatine or other binding agents sometimes Redensing include jellies, yoghurts, ice-creams, sorbets, fruit gures and biscuits. The ball

pharmaceutical products such as vitamin or other drug capsities. Casing

containing beef extract include lipstick, various emulsions and co

was apparently put on hold. Commission sources said the ban was blocked at the last minute after Neil Kinnock and Leon Brittan, the two British commissioners, refused to enthe EU's veterinary committee, dorse it. However, other offi-

cials denied this, saying Jacques Santer, the Commission President, had delayed a decision following a telephone call from John Major urging the Commission to look again at the evidence. A second meeting of EU veterinary experts yesterday endorsed Monday's ruling to British plea for boycott exemptions is rejected

impose and export ban.
The last-minute doubts, however, about whether to go ahead with the ban will only further undermine public confidence in the handling of the crisis. Questions were also being

asked in Brussels yesterday about the wide scope of the ban. agreed by the EU veterinary committee. Some senior EU vets suggested the all-inclusive nature of the ban was political and not taken for scientific rea-

sons. The decision was taken to draw the ban as broadly as possible by blocking export of all beef, beef products and beef-related products.

However, in the hurry to produce a proposal no clear list was drawn up, leading to fears that a big range of British food and pharmaceutical products could be barred from export. Senior EU vets said yesterday that there was no need to ban certain beef-related products, such as gelatine, and these should be clearly eliminated

from the ban. There was also deep uncertainty yesterday about whether the Commission has the power to impose a ban on British beef exports to the non

THE INDEPENDENT - WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 1996

#### 'Stalker' guilty of assault

A stalker convicted of assaulting a young woman was warned by a judge that he faced a "lengthy custodial sentence". The conviction of Italian Gaetano Constanza, 31, from Luton, for assault was a landmark in move: to make stalking a crime because he had never touched

his victim. He was found guilty after a jury at Luton Crown Court heard he had "destroyed" the life of computer operator Louise Wilson, 23, for two years with an obsessive campaign of more than 800 letters, phone calls and paint-daubing. He had denied the single charge of assault causing actual bodily harm between 1993 and last year.

Top trout lake shuts Britain's top trout fishing lake was closed yesterday after hundreds of fish were found to have died Blagdon Lake, near Bristol, was stocked with 30,000 brown and rainbow trout for the start of the trout fishing season. Tests were being carried out last

Life for scissors killer A man was jailed for life for hacking to death his stepdaughter and a young boy with scissors to cover-up a sex attack. Tariq Rehman, of Bradford, attacked Rachel Rooney, 15, and Jonathan Copley, with such force, the scissors snapped

in two, Leeds Crown Court

was told. Hours earlier, he had tried to molest Rachel, his stepdaughter. Rehman, 35, a district manager with Britannic Assurance, slaughtered the children to stop them telling about the sex attack, it was alleged. A jury of seven women and five men took less than three hours to find him guilty of their murders.

#### Schoolgirl alert

Police were "very concerned" last night for the safety of a Manchester girl who left home after being bullied at school. An alert has gone out to all ports after Sally McGrath, 13, said in a letter that she wanted to go to France.

#### Morgue mix-up

Hospital chiefs have apologised after the wrong body was released from a morgue for a funeral. Undertakers arranging the burial of pensioner John Callaghan, 77, went to collect his body but discovered it had been released to another family three weeks ago and cremated. Cardiff's University Hospital, Wales's biggest hospital, has launched an inquiry into how Mr Callaghan was confused with another man with a similar surname.

#### Extradition bid

Extradition proceedings have started to bring home one of Britain's most wanted men from a Dutch jail. Andrew Shacklady, 26 - described by police as unstable and dangerous - is sought to face charges involving attempted murder, drugs dealing and the death of a woman in a high-speed car race. A warning was broadcast about him on BBC TV's Crime-

#### Truck and roll

A mobile studio which belonged to the Rolling Stones will be sold for up to £20,000 at an auction of rock memorabilia m London next month. Bob Marley and Deep Purple also recorded hits in the custom-built DAF truck.

#### Amie goes home

Dunblane massacre victim Arme Adam, aged five. who suffered a shattered thigh, left hospital last night with her parents. Iwo other children injured in the shooting - Amy Hutchison and Mark Mulian - remain in hospital in Stirling.

#### 20p 'robber' cleared

An Old Bailey court case over a 20p robbery which has cost an estimated £130,000 ended in an acquittal. The jury took just 45 minutes to clear 19-year-old Michael Salmon from Manor Park, east London of robbing a student. A blackmail charge had been dropped.

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On the up: Willie McLean, of Auchterarder, Stirlingshire, with his Aberdeen Angus cattle fed entirely on a vegetarian diet and now in great demand

# Industry losses reach £50m in first week

PAUL FIELD

the latest BSE scare desnite attempts by ministers to restore

such as alternative sourcing confidence in the meat trade. The entire export industry, Virgin Atlantic, Richard worth £600m a year, was wiped Branson's airline, vesterday out, at the cost in four days of banned British beef from its around £11m to businesses and flights. A spokeswoman said: hundreds of jobs dependent on the trade. It will not recov-We have decided to remove all beef products from our flights er unless the Government is sucleaving the UK. This is due to cessful in lifting the European blanket ban on British beef.

the level of public concern."
The decision follows bans by The losses do not take into British Airways and British account the millions lost owing Midland, A BA spokesman to the knock-on effect of the cri-

sis. Meat processing firms, business since the Government crammed full of heifers and sociation, said: "The crisis has during the first week of the criftenght companies, lorry drivers, admitted a possible link beautioneers, animal feed manual fee The British beef industry lost at auctioneers, animal feed manleast £50m in the first week of ufacturers and caterers have all been severely hit.

Last night beef farmers in Ulster were bracing themselves for financial ruin after they failed to get their product sold worldwide under a local label to differentiate from British beef. Over 20,000 jobs in the province depend on the beef industry. Farming leaders and the

Meat Livestock Commission are reluctant to put a figure on the costs of the BSE scare but it is understood that the domestic industry has lost half its

Jakob Disease and infected eet – a loss of £40m. A spokesman for the Meat

Livestock Commission, Ray Barrowdale, said much beef would have to be destroyed. "Wholesalers are not buying beef. Their fridges are full of meat and they will only shift it by discounting. Prices of beef in the supermarkets will probably fall by a half. If not the beef will have to be destroyed." At cattle markets across

Britain business slumped by 95 per cent. Pens normally

As the beef scare broke out

day and Friday by 20p to 30p per kilo live weight, amounting to between £100 and £150 per animal. This week the prices have remained at that level. Yesterday, at Shrewsbury cattle market, more than £500,000

worth of business was lost when none of the usual 850 cattle was brought to auction. The picture was mirrored at other auctions across the country. John Martin, secretary of

the Livestock Auctioneers As-

who take a 2 to 3 per cent com- send 100 on leave. a way out of the crisis. Even though the price of pigs and sheep has risen sharply, beef has been their moneymaker.

Exporters have been forced to lay off staff as they watched their business dry up.

Anglo Beef Processors, one of the largest beef exporters and meat processors in Britain, had £250,000 worth of beef turned away from the Continent in four days. The company said it had lost £1m in export business

emerged that depressed farm ers are already being admitted to hospital because of distress caused by the BSE scare. Dr Peter Higson, of the Clyw

dian Community Care NHS Trust, north Wales, reported that potentially suicidal cases had been treated. "Our trained volunteers are busy with calls. Parming can be a lonely business and there were already intense economic pressures before this

# Time to stand up for Britain

Usually at Prime Minister's Question Time, odd secretaries of state or other hangers-on are St Thomas' Hospital Trust in London said: "We have taken inexplicably seated close to the top man. What are X and Y doing there, the observer wonders. The answer is that - like popcorn cartons and Pensi cans at a cinema - they are left over eat British beel."
But at the John Radcliffe from an earlier performance: the detritus of a ministerial questions session just ended.

a spokesman said: "We have not Yesterday when questions to taken it off the menu because the Secretary of State for the we have had no directive to Environment and his team finfrom the Department of Health ished, the flotsam consisted of and because at the end of the the Kiwi dentist and junior day it is up to patient choice." minister. Sir Paul Beresford, who found himself rubbing A spokeswoman for the Beefeater restaurant chain said flanks with the PM. Where then was his boss . . . John Selthat it was continuing to serve British beef but "where it is on wyn Gummer? Only five minthe menu we inform the cusutes earlier his domed head. tomers so that they can make an pale face and tight little mouth had graced the front bench. Tesco, Safeway, Sainsbury Displaying that absolute cerand Marks & Spencer all said tuinty that once so memorably that they would continue to sell characterised his assurances British beef, stressing that they about beef, he had been praisbought only the best-quality ing his own policies on the red meat and that products would squirrel. I blinked - and he had



#### DAVID AARONOVITCH

It was planned that way, of course. Mr Major's job - blaming Labour for the beef crisis was going to be difficult enough as it was, without such a tangible reminder of the days when ministers used to express opinions before consulting scientific commitmes. Wrong opinions, as it turn; our.

With his front bench Gummer-free, the PM set about the business with a will. The thrust of his case, as it revealed itself, was as follows: last week we were having a perfectly manageable little health scare past problem, not many dead, all better now - when along

Harman and irresponsibly frightened the living daylights out of consumers. So if horrid things happen and cattle get slaughtered as a result of all this hysteria, it will be their fault. But there was a paradox.

While the PM's voice rose with anger and frustration, calling forth the full range of Majorite gesticulation (from pointing leftwards to pointing right-wards) the Labour leader probed forensically and quiet-. Rarely has the case for calm been urged with such lack of restraint, nor the argument for panic pressed with such cool deliberation The best indication that the

Major had lost the plot came when Blair asked the question that every consumer wants the answer to - how big is the risk now? - prompting the response that Labour's attitude would be "unfathomable to people in the agricultural industry and those outside it . Blair - not just fathomable but translucent all better now - when along carefully enunciated that the been a bit hard to say with came. Tony Blair and Harriet Government was guilty of wyn sitting next to him.

"mind-bogg-ling-in-compet-ence". Toe-knee sat down. "I would have thought you had done enough damage in the last few days," retorted Mr Major.

But was Labour alone to blame? Paul Marland (C., West Gloucestershire and farmer) added another name. Wasn't it time, he boomed, "for the media to stand up for Britain?" For a start they could go to the continent and "examine what in Europe is known as staggers". Is it really? "Donner und Blitzen, Marlene, es ist die Staggers." I don't think so, somehow. Peter Viggers (C. Gosport)

pread his net even wider. Labour, the media, and ... McDonalds, "all of whom have something to sell: newspapers, beefburgers and themselves". Whereas government - poor, maligned, selfless government - had "other re-sponsibilities". The Prime Minister agreed. All these people were indeed guilty of "ill-thought out comments, that should never have been made". Which would have been a bit hard to say with Jon Sel-

#### toll on jobs BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

The "mad cow" crisis yesterday began to take its toll on jobs as slaughterhouses stopped killing cattle and at least one plant Two of the country's largest

companies laid workers off, sent others on holiday and announced redundancies. Leaders of the meat processing industry warned that in common with farmers they might also be seeking compensation.
Forfar Meat Traders, based

at Dundee, became the first corporate victim, closing with the loss of 12 jobs. Mark Batchelor, director of the company blamed a "needless panic" on ministers. He said: "We have found it more and more difficult to continue trading with every BSE scare over the last few years. This scare has been the final nail in the coffin."

One of the leading companies, Anglo Beef Processors, axed 52 jobs, laid off 140 workers and sent more than 100 on leave for a week. ABP warned that could be more lay-offs to come.

Slump takes

Another leading company, Midland Meat Packers, of Crick, Northamptonshire, sent 150 employees on holiday for two weeks at the country's largest abattoir. Midland, part of the Baker Group, said it would re-evaluate the situation after Easter. Midland said it had no im-

mediate plans for redundancies and would "go to all lengths" to prevent job losses. The company had "an excellent reputation for quality" and complied with all British and European laws. Alistair MacDougall of Irish-owned Anglo Beef Processors

said the outlook for jobs in the short term was "fairly awful". He said: "We keep hoping that some sort of samily will return. If it continues it is not just the farmers who will be seeking compensation but the processing industry."

The largest union in the in-

dustry, the Transport & General Workers, said it was being inundated with members concerned over their jobs and their health. The T&G said that the jobs of its 50,000 members in the industry were under threat. A spokesman for the Na-

tional Farmers' Union said some of their members were desperate to know how they were going to survive if the crisis continued. Some 70,000 holdings kept beef cattle and some meat came from dairy herds which were farmed in 42,000 locations.

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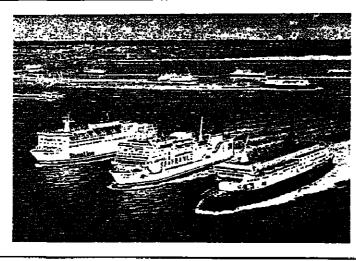
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SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.

# Army poised to put women in front line

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Army is considering sending women into the front line with its tank and infantry units - the only regiments from which they are still largely excluded, it was disclosed yesterday.

MPs have said they want a are allowed to do with the aim full parliamentary debate before of widening employment opa final decision. Women al- portunities. ready serve on Navy warships and as jet pilots in the Royal Air

Force, but a decision on their mons Defence Committee, wider employment in the Army could also lead to their being allowed to serve in the Royal Marines' commando units.

Women currently make up 7 per cent of the British armed forces and the Ministry of Defence is reviewing the jobs they of widening employment op-

A report on manning and recruitment by the all-party Compublished vesterday, welcomed the review, which is due to report in the summer. But it recmended that "the complex legal and social issues" should be debated before any decision is finally taken to deploy women in the armoured regiments and miantry "in contact battle".

The wider employment of women would help the Army meet its extensive commitments at a time when it is short of

2,500 infantrymen. At present, is the lack of privacy, but the 47 percent of the posts in the provision of suitable facilities Army are open to women. Women already serve in other fighting arms, including the Royal Artillery. Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the

Royal Logistic Corps. They also serve on board all the Navy's surface warships, which are ready to go to war at any time. The only obstacle to women serving on submarines

will be considered as part of the design of the next generation of submarines in about three

Women can now serve as aircrew in all three services. The RAF has 12 qualified female pilots; the Army three women flying Lynx and Gazelle heli-

copters.

The main obstacle to employing women in front-line

**Photograph auction:** Fruits of businessman's unusual hobby will net thousands

tank and infantry roles has women were completed on 15 been perceptions of their physical strength. The Army has commissioned a study by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) in order to develop a series of tests designed to determine whether individual women would be able to carry heavy loads over long distances - one of the essential elements of front-line

combat. The first trials with the

new tests on 214 men and 106

December last year. ■A new high-level military command will take charge of the planning and execution of

military operations involving all three services from next week, the Secretary of State for Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, announced yesterday. Later this year it will also take command of the new Joint

Rapid Deployment Force.

mando Brigade, based on the Royal Marines and the 5th Airborne Brigade, supported by the SAS, the Special Boat Service. an armoured battle group and sea and air forces.

It was also announced that the SAS will move from its present base in Hereford to a nearby site. The old base at Surling Lines is too small and 22 SAS Regiment is to move to the former RAF station at Cre-denhill in the next three years.

'Mellow'

Snagge

of BBC

radio

dies, 91

# **Orange** accuses Cellnet of misleading ads

Industrial Correspondent

The telecommunications com-The advertisements, which

have been placed in national newspapers in the approach to Orange's stock-market debut today, promote Cellnet as being cheaper than its fledgling rival. One of the advertisements

boasts that Cellnet is "The net that sets you free" while la-belling Orange "The net that sets you back". Another states: adverts should be "cute, white "To save Orange a bit of mon-ey we have published our prices next to theirs."

Orange believes that Cellnet is not comparing like with like and in some cases sets the cost of offpeak use on the Cellnet system against a mixture of offpeak and peak usage on Orange. The company also feels that the advertisements ignore the overall value of its tariff packages, some of which include extras such as 12 months free in-

Orange declined to comment on the attack by the larger operator and would not confirm the complaint to the ASA. However, industry sources said that the company is aggrieved to be taken down and can-at the "selective" nature of the advertisements and the timing session at Crystal Palace sports of their appearance. There is also a view that the plethora of different pricing arrangements from all the mobile operators makes it impossible to make fair comparisons. Orange has always

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price alone and never will. Both Cellnet and Vodaphone regard the fledgling Orange as a serious player in spite of their

own dominance. Vodafone's total subscriber base is approaching 2.5bn with Cellnet not far behind. At the end of pany Orange has complained to the Advertising Standards Authority over alleged "misleading" advertisements by Cellnet.

Head of the East of February, Orange had 440,000 customers and has been taking on about 30,000 per month.

A casting session for a new advertising campaign by telephone company Mercury has been called off after promotional leaflets said only white

children could take part. The leaflets, put up in swim ming pools around south Lon-don, specified that babies and love the water".

Baby Claire is currently fea tured in a series of cartoon-style newspaper ads and Mercury is planning a TV campaign later A Mercury Communications

spokesman said today: "We were very unhappy with the wording of the leaflets and the way that the casting was han-dled. [The leaflets] were drawn up by someone a few steps along the line from our advertising agency and did not follow our brief ... Their reasoning was explained in the leaflet, but obviously we were very unhappy when we heard about it, immediately ordered the leaflets

any offence or discrimination. I think whoever drew up the leaflet was acting in good faith but was rather thoughtless.

have a casting session is under

"We never intended to cause

Candid collection of the famous for sale MARIANNE MACDONALD A remarkable collection of au-

Arts Correspondent

tographed photographs of many of the world's most famous men and women — including Freud. Matisse, Oscar Wilde and Wallis Simpson - are to come up for sale next month. On offer is an almost naked

Mata Hari, the notorious First World War spy executed by the French, wearing little more than an elaborate head-dress and ankle chains, a quizzicallooking Sigmund Freud brandishing a cigar, and a rammed-backed Charles Dickens staring out of the window.

The raise picture of the writer of such classics as Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby is a signed carté de visite valued at \$2,000 to \$3,000 to in the auction at Christie's East in New Even more valuable is a large

cabinet photograph of Annie Oakley, the pint-sized marksman who could split a playing



.The Red Baron: The noble German fighter ace

card held on edge at thirty paces, which is valued at up to

But perhaps the best is the portrait of Henri Matisse, the oclastic Faures, taken sitting respectably on a horse wearing a bowler hat (\$3,000 to \$4,000). The photographs - more to the catalogue.

than 300 in all - were collected by a Boston investment property broker, M Wesley The businessman began col-

lecting the pictures 29 years ago after being shown an auto-graphed photograph of the gangster Al Capone, which belonged to a psychiatrist friend. "The richness of the image, together with the intriguing signature, 'spoke' to me." he

He continued buying images for three decades, gathering photographs of celebrities throughout the world following the 1839 invention of photography. Mr Marans has been forced to sell by the value of his collection, which he removed from his home ten years ago. "I have come to the conclu-

sion that just as I have passionately enjoyed collecting and the quest, so should others have this pleasure, rather than locking the pictures in a bank vault," he writes in the foreword



#### Man's death went unoticed for hours

REBECCA FOWLER

As commuters returned from work to Blackheath train station in south-east London last Thursday night, they had no reason look twice at the man sitting on the bench. Only when they returned the next morning and he was still there, still upright, did it become clear that he was dead.

He died at about the time the last train pulled in, and he remained unnoticed for more than eight hours.

He had arrived at the station at about 10pm, half an hour after railway staff left for the evening, and alighting passengers assumed he was either taking a rest or waiting there for

But when one commuter from the previous evening re-

turned to catch the 6.21am to Charing Cross on Friday, and saw the 52-year-old widower still upright on the bench, he became concerned. An ambulance was called immediately and the man, named as Ron New, of Erith, Kent, was con-

It turns out that he had spent the evening drinking with a friend, and had been arrested for drunk and disorderly behaviour. After being seen by a police doctor he was declared fit to go home, and found himself on the station bench.

firmed dead.

His niece. Jacqueline Frazer, 34, said last night: "It is very sad that he should have to die like that. It's a disgrace no one saw him at the station. He was so cold rigor mortis had set in ... It's a terrible way to go with

# Report on child abuse is blocked by council

FROM PAGE ONE

disqualification from office and loss of their homes. They were likewise warned that any publicity that could create the climate for more claims risked being construed as helping alleged victims. The gag the coun-cil has decided to impose on its own members is such that they are prevented from even revealing the report's recom-

mendation for a judicial inquiry.

The leading QC Michael
Beloff advised the council last week that it could risk losing its insurance cover if it released a report in which negligence was admitted. He also advised that a council was under no legal duty to inform the public of anything and that the fiduciary duty [duty of trust] of a local au-

thority towards its electors and taxpayers was first and foremost to look after its financial

Yet Westminster Council felt able the day before yesterday to sanction publication of a report criticising it for housing home-less families in asbestos-ridden tower blocks. The May 1991 report into "pin down" where children were kept in solitary confinement was commissioned and published by Staffordshire County Council whose insurers later paid out £1.7m in compensation shared between

about 140 victims. Ron Davies, the shadow Welsh secretary, has written to William Hague, Secretary of State for Wales, urging him to place his copy of the report in for MPs to consult, Members could then raise its contents on the floor of the House under the protection of parliamentary

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said yesterday: "It is just not credible in the late 20th century that we are going to be shredding this report. It is positively Kafkaesque. If it involves a change in local gov-ernment law or executive action by the Welsh Office then Mr Hague must take that action.

But the Welsh Office's response was that the affair served to confirm that it had been "right" to set up a "paper" in-vestigation by child care expert Nicola Davies QC. who took no

#### Cadbury sponsors 'Coronation Street'

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Cadbury, the confectionery and drinks group, has struck a £10m sponsorship deal with Corona-tion Street, Granada's flagship show, which enables the Cadbury name to appear with the opening and closing credits. It also includes off-air promotion

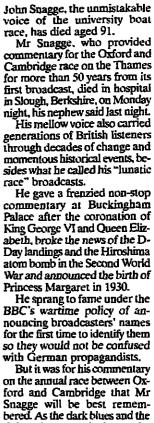
using the show's stars. The on-air sponsorship will start in September, to coincide with the introduction of a fourth episode of Coronation Street. The deal concludes months of negotiation by Cadbury for the right to be associated with the

35-year-old soap. Last August Granada had appeared to come close to a deal with Pedigree Petfoods. It has also been talking to drinks firm very much bringing together two of the nation's favourites," Cadbury's marketing director, Alan

Palmer, said. Yesterday Cadbury declined to specify what the extra duties of the cast would be, although discussions with Granada are expected to centre on photo-opportunities and advertising promotions for competitions.

Yesterday actor Bill Roach, who plays Ken Barlow, posed with Barbara Knox, who plays Rita, beside a huge bar of white Cadbury's chocolate in the shape of the Coronation Street

Andrea Wonfor, Granada's joint managing director, said viewers would not be seeing gra-tuitous close-ups of Cadbury products in Rita's Kabin. Granada's new boss, page 20



But it was for his commentary on the annual race between Oxford and Cambridge that Mr Snagge will be best remembered. As the dark blues and the light blues sped down the Thames, his unmistakable voice would record their every move. His most famous gaffe was in

1949 when he said: "Oxford are ahead, no Cambridge are ahead. either Oxford or Cambridge. In 1944 he was awarded the

OBE, and in 1953 he made broadcasting history when he covered the Queen's coronation from inside Westminster Abbey, providing seven hours of continuous commentary.

Michael Green, acting managing director of BBC Net-work Radio, said last night: "He was one of the great names of radio."

Mr Snagge, was married twice and lived at Dorney, Buckinghamshire.



John Snagge: Voice of the boat race for 50 years



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JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The miniber of recorded crimes fell by 2.4 per cent last year in England and Wales, but the trend in the last six months of 1995 shows a rise in offences, it was revealed yesterday.

There was also a disturbing psurge in the number of violent crimes, including street ngs, which rose overall by 5.400 cases in 1995. The largest increases were in Merseyside (up 12 per cent) and in Cambridgeshire (up 10 per cent).

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, described yesterday's figures - down by 126,000 on 1994 to 5.1 million in 1995 - as a "milestone". However, if reported crimes continue to inrease as they have done in the last half of 1995 it could produce disastrous crime figures just before a general election. Home Office figures show a

fall in most types of crime and fall in the annual figures –

before this century. Domestic was about 5,000. For the first burglaries were down by 5 per cent to 647,000, though other types of break-ins rose by

Vehicle crime fell by 52,900 offences - a fall of 4 per cent - to more than 1.3 million.

But violent crimes, which make up 6 per cent of all offences, continued to go up. The Home Office, however, argued that the rise was the smallest in 12 years. A total of 316,300 violent crimes were recorded in 1995-a 2 per cent increase on the year before.

The rise was largely due to muggings and robberies, which went up by 8,600 to 68,400. There was also a big rise in thefts against the person, which can include bag-snatching and pick-pocketing, up 18 per cent to 60,000. The other disturbing rise was in drug trafficking offences, which increased by 15 per cent to 52,200.

Sexual offences fell by 5 per cent to 30,400, although there was no change in the number of which has only happened twice rapes against a woman, which

time male rape has been in-cluded and totalled 152 last year. Homicides - murder, manslaughter and infanticide stayed about the same at 746. About 35 of the 43 police

forces recorded falls in crime. The largest were in Gwent (down 14 per cent), Durham (down 11 per cent) and Dyfed Powys (down 10 per cent). Crimes in London fell by 1 per cent to about 840,000.

About one in four of all offences was cleared up or solved by the police. For violent crimes the police success rate rose to about two-thirds. But about 20 per cent of "clear-ups" were from convicted criminals admitting to further offences from

In spite of the falls in the past three years, there has been an annual average increase of 3.6 per cent in recorded crime over the past 10 years. The current drop in crime also shows signs of bottoming out. In 1995 the number of crimes reported compared with the same period in 1994 showed 8 per cent and 4 per cent falls in the first two quarters of the year, but a

I per cent rise in the last half. Michael Howard refused to be drawn on the possibility of crime going back up. He said: "This fall marks another milestone in the fight against crime and is a credit to the hard work and dedication of the police."

He added: "It shows that targeting known criminals and specific crimes can and does make a real difference to crime levels in local communities."

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "Only last month, the Prime Minister was claiming credit for small reductions in crime. But these figures show that in the last six months of last year recorded crime began to rise again." Fred Broughton, chairman of

the Police Federation, representing rank and file officers, The good news is that overall crime has fallen for the third year in succession. The bad news is that violent crime con-



Craftsman: Richard Grasby yesterday at the 'Inscribed in Stone' exhibition, at Cardiff's National Museum of Wales until 16 June Photograph:

#### Rugby ref 'had no control of game'

A rugby player who was paralysed when he broke his neck as a scrummage collapsed told the High Court yesterday that the referee exerted no control

over the game. Ben Smoldon, 21, who is now tetraplegic and confined to a wheelchair, is suing the referee, Michael Nolan, and an opposing prop forward, Thomas Whitworth, for £1m damages. He said Mr Nolan failed to control the game and should have read the riot act to both packs in the "grudge match" between Sutton Coldfield and Burton on Trent, on 19 October 1991.

When asked whether the tragic incident was just a "one in a million accident", as he had described to reporters soon afterwards, he replied: "I feel it could have been avoided."

Mr Smoldon, who was playing hooker, said: "There was a degree of charging, I was taken along with it by the other players. I can recall turning round to my pack after the second scrum-mage, before the third scrummage when I injured myself, and telling them to calm things down because I was concerned . . . But he added: "I don't recall any occasion when [Mr Nolan]

spoke to the front row. This was contradicted, however, by Mr Nolan's counsel Richard Davies QC, who said: "I suggest that there were a proper and adequate number of occasions that Mr Nolan did talk to the front rows and explained to them what it was he required

them to do." Mr Smoldon's version of events in the scrum was backed up his teammate Hywel Jopling. who played loose head prop. He said his opposite number. Mr Whitworth, had not allowed him to scrum down properly.

Describing the actual incident in which his colleague was injured, he said: "I went to engage with my opposite number and there was no push. The ball was put in, but I didn't have any resistance so I fell to the floor. As l was sitting up I saw Ben fall back on the ground and that is when we realised he had been

badly injured." The hearing continues today.

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# Inspectors severely criticise Muslim school

Clear-up rates by type of offence 1995

**Education Correspondent** 

Plans for Britain's first statefunded Muslim school suffered a serious setback last night after a critical report from government inspectors.

The inspectors said that Islamia school in Brent, north London, was failing to teach the national curriculum and was breaching health and safety rules in a number of ways. They also questioned the school's discipline policy, under which pupils are hit on the hand with rulers if they misbehave.

Islamia school is currently run privately, relying on fees and private donations to survive. After being turned down for the voluntary-aided status which many Church of England and Catholic schools enjoy, it is now applying to "opt in" and become grant maintained.

But inspectors from Ofsted. the school inspection body, found that its teaching methods

had serious weaknesses and it was failing to diagnose pupils' special needs properly.

Two reports published yesterday on the school's two sections, a primary department and a girls high school, were very critical of its methods. Although they declared that

the high school met the minimum requirements of the 1944 education act they criticised its discipline policy. It was one of the very few schools which still had corporal punishment, the inspectors said, and it should think again about it. If Islamia was allowed to become a state school it would no longer be allowed to use physical punishment.

However, the girls' school had satisfactory standards of achievement and pupils were well motivated and well behaved, they said.

The primary school was criticised for its teaching methods, which the inspectors said failed to stretch the brightest but

were too hard for the slowest The school had been unable to implement the national curriculum and staff were not checked against a government list of banned teachers - those who have been struck off for abuse or misconduct — before

being employed. Parents and the community gave the school a great deal of support, however, and the welfare of the pupils was well looked after.

Last night, the general sec retary of the association of Muslim schools, Ibrahim Hewitt, said that the reports gave extra weight to Islamia's case for state funding rather than weakening it. The girls' high school had some of the best GCSE results in Brent, he added.

"Obviously, if you are trying to run a school on a tight budget there may well be things which slip through, which otherwise would not or should not happen. This strengthens the case for state funding," he said.

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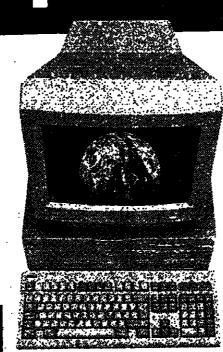
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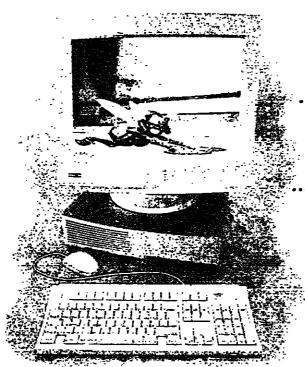
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MAINTE BA

East End corruption: Auditor attacks Lib Dems for manipulating policy to favour own trading interests in Petticoat Lane area

# Councillors ran London markets in 'cavalier' way

Trace Seems

The conduct of councillors and town half officials responsible for running the world-famous May 1990, was an unlicensed street markets of Petricoat Lane trader working from a sub-let and Brick Lane in London's pitch. After her election she was East Ead was yesterday criticised as "disturbing" and "cavalier" in a forceful report by the District Auditor.

At the time of her election the council was revoking the licence. Mr Pandya's report

Kash Pandya described a "catalogue of unacceptable con-duct" which led to a disregard for rules and procedures in the London borough of Tower with revocation which would have pushed Mrs Wright out of It was "an object lesson for

members on how not to exercise their roles", said Mr Pandya in his 80-page report into the running of the markets.

Over three years Mr Pandya investigated how the then Liberal Democrat-run council had managed to turn a £300,000 surplus on its market business in 1989 into a deficit of £1.5m by

March 1994.

Although highly critical of how the borough ran its market business, how it lost income from licensed pitches, and how it did nothing about "illegal" sub-letting of pitches Mr Pandya reserved his strongest criticism for how councillors directly involved in street trading manipulated council policy in their own financial interest.

Considering the lucrative business of sub-letting some of the council's 7,000 pitches -mainly located in the Bethnal Green area – Mr Pandya states this "unlawful" trade exists and can only exist "with the knowl-

business activities of three "outwith the council's statutonamed councillors. Councillor Betty Wright, elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor in

cence. Mr Pandya's report refers to "documentary evidence" that showed certain councillors applying pressure on business. The report states: "The role played by some members, in particular Councillors Wright, John Snooks and Jeremy Shaw during this period gives me cause for considerable

Although Mrs Wright claims never to have traded from the pitch, Mr Pandya says the roles played by Mr Snooks (the then chairman of the borough's street trading panel) and that of Mr Shaw were "disturbing".

However, Mr Pandya says the evidence falls short of showing "wilful misconduct" and persuaded him not to take the matter to the criminal courts and to seek the recovery of lost revenue

on surcharging the councillors. In an investigation in 1992 by John Hendy QC of the Crown Prosecution Service also concluded there was "insufficient evidence"to proceed.

Mr Pandya investigation into the film deficit on the street trading account found that charges which the council listedge of some council officers".

ed for such services as refuse collection were irregular and

ry powers".

Answering the report's crit-icisms that Tower Hamlets had operated "totally ineffective budgetary control procedures" a council source yesterday said that while the report had been critical of individuals there had also been criticism of "ac-counting methods" which put money from street trading into the council's account - helping to reduce the borough's rates.

Yesterday Tower Hamlets accepted that the handling of street markets during 1989-92 was "inadequate". It will discuss the report as a matter of urgency in the near future.



Dirty linen: The world-famous Petticoat Lane in east London, where "illegal" and "disturbing" practices have been found

#### DAILY POEM

#### Raydance

By Olivia Byard

TON FAMILY

GRAPHICS

Rays, in the aquarium, dance round the salty currents, down the water's shimmer to the music's drift. Twirling, whirling, tails like tops beneath, their strange wide fin curl through the foam as they turn, breathing water in, breathing out.

On the quay at Cadgwith, skate are piled in pails, white clown faces with mouths agap Inhaling the reek of dead fish, I listen, hastily practise an awkward step.

Olivia Byard was born in south Wales, and currently lives and works in Oxford. Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals, including *Poetry Review*, Acumen, and the Observer. Her forthcoming collection From a Benediction (Peterloo Poets) will be published next year.

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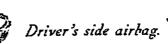
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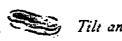
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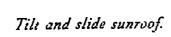
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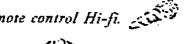
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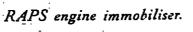














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#### news

# Rise in heavy drinking set to defeat targets

#### General Household Survey: A nation's lifestyle and habits revealed

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** Public Policy Editor

The Government is set to miss its "Health of the Nation" targets for cutting smoking and drinking, the latest figures from the General Household Survey

The programme is already in trouble because smoking among children has increased rather than fallen. Obesity appears to be rising rather than dropping, and the latest figures for lung-cancer deaths among women under 75 are also moving in the wrong direction.

The survey of the nation's lifestyle in 1994 published yesterday suggest that the smoking targets for adults are also unlikely to be met - and that excessive alcohol consumption is moving the wrong way for both men and women. In 1994, more in both sexes were drinking above the "sensible" limits of 21 and 14 units a week respectively -- and women's alcohol consumption has been on the increase for a decade.

Greater availability of drink in supermarkets and general stores over the past 20 years may help to explain that, Nikki Bennett, the head of the survey, said. "Alcohol is more readily available, but women also have increased independence and wider social lives now that more are working. More women have moved to college and away

from home at an earlier age, and grown up in that culture." Bob Barnes, director of social surveys for the Office of Population Censuses and Survevs, added that more women combining work and home may have produced increased stress that had led to more drinking.

Smoking, by contrast, is declining among both men and women, but at an appreciably slower rate than in the Eighties. Smokers are down from 51 per cent of men in 1974 to 28 per cent, and from 41 per cent of women 20 years ago to 26

On current progress, the target of fewer than one in five smoking by 2000 looks unlike-

ly to be met for men, but may be achieved for women.

Men who smoked were much more likely to drink excessively than men who did not - one in three, compared with one in five - and women who smoked were twice as likely to drink too much.

The survey also shows a huge cut in pipe and cigar smoking just 6 per cent of men smoked cigars in 1994 against 34 per cent in 1974, and pipe smoking declined from 12 to 3 per cent.

some of the 27 targets, most are moving in the right direction, the Department of Health said, with two - a drop in suicides and a reduction in sexually transmitted disease - running ahead of target. The annual survey shows a

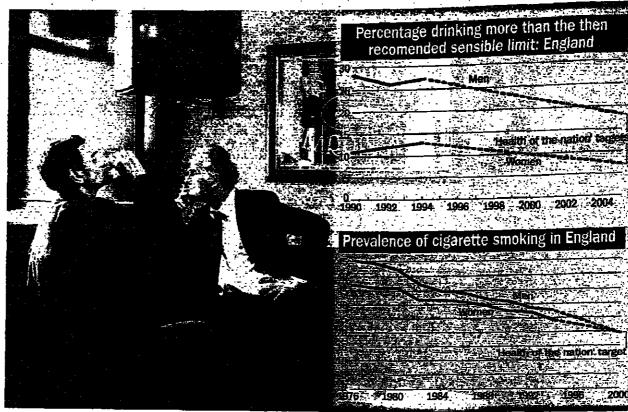
continued rise in single parents and more women cohabiting, while a growing proportion of the population lives alone - 15 per cent against 9 per cent in

It also shows that the numbers of elderly people who cannot get about alone or manage basic household tasks are not rising, despite the ageing of the population. Mr Barnes said vesterday that this suggests some of the more alarming predictions about the extra burden from an ageing population may be misplaced.

Since 1980, the proportion saying they find it hard to cope has remained broadly constant - although the figures relate only to those living at home, not to the 7 per cent of those over 65 in Despite the difficulties over nursing and residential homes.

More of those over 65 now live alone than in1980 (39 per cent compared with 34 per cent) and almost 60 per cent report a long-standing illness or disability which for more than 40 per cent limits their activities. One in ten say that they cannot walk down the road or get up and down stairs alone, with 16 per cent saying they are unable to do their own shopping. The proportions rise

Living in Britain: results from the 1994 General Household Survey; HMSO; £23.50.



# AS RECOMMENDED BY John Griffith-Jones, KPMG LEADING MANAGEMENT Danny Shields, Ernst & Young. ENNSMEANNE

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## Cancer from asbestos dust 'is like lottery'

like buying lottery tickets and no one could tell which particles caused individual cancers, one of Britain's biggest engineering companies claimed in

the Court of Appeal yesterday.
T&N was trying to overturn a High Court judge's landmark decision last October that it must pay damages to two people who as children played in the drifts of white dust which blanketed the roads around their homes. It was the first time that a

court had awarded compensation for asbestos claims made by anyone other than those who had worked in a plant. William Woodward QC, for

T&N, told three judges yesterday that it could never be known when and where a person developed the cancer of the lung lining, mesothelioma. One of the victims. Arthur

Margereson, had played around the factory of JW Roberts in Armley, Leeds, which made insulating mattresses for boilers, suffering from the same cancer, for eight years before the dangers were realised and the factory owners became liable to protect people from the risks. While he was at school and playing around the area he was

also breathing in asbestos dust for which T&N were not liable." Mr Woodward said Mr Margereson, who had lived in the area since 1925, was exposed during his childhood to "guilty dust

Breathing asbestos dust was and "not guilty dust" depending оп whether he was within the main danger area and it could not be determined which dust produced mesothelioma.

But Lord Justice Russell said that the line that had to be drawn was where, outside the factory walls, the risk of personal injury became less than a real

"It is not a very attractive argument for the factory owner to agree that mountains of asbestos dust were created but these cases of cancer were not the result of that," he said. In what has become a test

case for up to 40 other cases in the Armley area and possibly 500 nationally. Evelyn Marg-ereson, 70, was awarded £50,000 by the High Court in Leeds for the death five years ago of her husband, Arthur, who had mesothelioma.

June Hancock, 60, who played in the dust in the late Thirties and early Forties, is also was awarded £65,000

Mr Woodward said that in the Leeds judgment, Mr Justice Holland had failed to define where the area of risk lay outside the factory walls.

T&N (known as Turner and Newall until 1987), has already paid £250m worldwide to people directly affected by asbestosis and other related diseases. The hearing continues today.

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Britons make history with

Oscar triumphs

MARIANNE MACDONALD Arts Correspondent

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Emma Thompson won an unprecedented double on Monday night when she was awarded an Oscar for her adaptation of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. Coming on top of her 1991 Oscar for best actress in another classic British adaptation, Howard's End. it made her the first woman to win both a screenplay award and an acting

Before I came, I went to visit Jane Austen's grave in Win-chester cathedral to pay my respects and tell her about the grosses," Thompson joked as she accepted the award in Los Angeles on Monday night.

Also celebrating an extraordinary achievement was Nick Park, the Bristol-based creator of the ingenious inventor Wallace and his long-suffering dog Gromit, who has won awards for every film he has entered. This year he won his third Oscar in a row for his animated film A Close Shave.

A third Oscar was won for Britain by Jon Blair for his documentary, Anne Frank

Emma Thompson, who recently broke up with her husthe actor/director Kenneth Branagh, had also

StMichael FOODS

been nominated for best actress for her role as Elinor in Sense and Sensibility, but that went to Susan Sarandon for the nun in Dead Man Walking. British actresses who have won the elusive best actress double include Elizabeth Taylor and Olivia De Havilland.

Nick Park - the first Briton to win three Oscars - confirmed after the ceremony that he was involved in talks with Hollywood executives about making a feature-length animated film. But he says is determined not to recreate Wallace and Gromit for it, even though he has admitted that Gromit resembles himself in always carrying the baggage of the past and the worry of the

He said after the award ceremony: "I'm sitting down to write a feature film that has, been pitched to quite a few people here. Wallace and Gromit will be put on the shelf for a

Mel Gibson, director and star, took the best film and best director for Braveheart, his savage and controversial tale of the 13th-century Scottish patriot William Wallace. The film also won awards for sound effects, make up and cinematography. Oscars in all and prompting pre-



boom in Scotland as well as a resurgence of nationalism.

Other award winners included Nicolas Cage, for his portrait of a suicidal alcoholic in Leaving Las Vegas, and Kevin Spacey for best supporting actor in The Usual Suspects.

Mira Sorvina won best supcleaning up a resounding five porting actress for Mighty Aphrodite --- beating the young

who had been nominated for her role as Marianne in Sense and Sensibility — while Christopher McQuarrie took best screenplay (written directly for

a film) for The Usual Suspects. Jon Blair, after accepting his Oscar for the film about the young girl whose diary recorded her two years of hiding in Amsterdam from Nazi troops,

introduced his frail companion on stage as Miep Gies, who helped keep the Frank family

alive in their attic hiding place "Without her, Anne Frank's story might never have been told. She found her diary on the floor," he said to a wave of ap-plause. Both Anne Frank Re-membered and A Close Shave will be shown by the BBC over

# Nerve damage found in Gulf war veterans

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Some veterans suffering from so-called Gulf war syndrome अर showing physical evidence of nerve damage, according to new research.

The findings suggest that the nervous systems of individuals who believe they have the syndrome, do demonstrate clear differences when compared with those of the general pop-

The findings, to be published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry later this week, will be seized on by scores of men and women who fought in the Gulf and have since suffered a range of debilitating symptoms. They are campaigning for recognition of Gulf war syndrome by the Ministry of Defence, and many are demanding compensation.

A number of veterans have died after suffering a breakdown in their health that relatives attribute to the syndrome.

Dr Goran Jamai, of the Institute of Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, analysed the veterans' ability to hear sound impulses, a test designed to determine damage to the central

nervous system. Another test involved monitoring their nerve response to an electrical impulse passed through nerves on their arms and legs, to assess injury to the nerve endings in the peripheral nervous system.

The results show there were significant differences between the two populations - the Gulf war veterans versus the control population - in terms of nervous system function. The Gulf war veterans performed less well." Dr Jamal says on BBC Scotland's Frontline Scotland programme, to be screened tonight. Dr Jamal said the "Naps"

nerve gas antidote given to British soldiers could be an important factor. French soldiers not issued

they were given a cocktail of 17 injections against diseases like plague - as well as tablets de-signed to protect them from biological and nerve gas attack, all in the space of a few days. One of the problems is we

research these substances alone. in isolation," said Dr Jamal. What we don't know is the combined effect, of for instance Naps combined with other compounds, and I think it is underestimated.

no health problems, he said.

in the programme recall how

Several veterans interviewed

Katherine Lamb, a former army nurse from Helensburgh. Strathelyde, says on the programme: "I am angry that the MoD have continued to deny there are medical problems. I can't understand why they continue to do this in the light of the evidence available. I think they will have to accept at the end of the day that they have some responsibility for the medical condition of the troops

with Naps tablets have had that were in the Gulf." Benefits ban 'lawful'

The controversial decision to withdraw benefits from most

asylum seekers was yesterday declared lawful by the High Court, but judges voiced concern over the adverse effects the move may have on genuine refugees. Lord Justice Beldam and Mr

Justice Buxton said they shared the views of the Government's independent social security advisers, who earlier this year had condemned the benefit changes. The Social Security Advisory Committee had agreed that there was a need to deter a growing number of bo-

gus asylum seekers, but said a Peter Lilley, Secretary of State better way was to ensure more efficient asylum procedures "rather than making changes to the benefits system which would produce such drastic and un-

welcome consequences". The judges' remarks came as the Refugee Council announced that 400 asylum seekers were now homeless and penniless as a result of the benefit changes which came into effect on 5 February. The ruling is expected to affect about 30,000 asylum

seekers a year. But yesterday, in a case which could go all the way to the European Court of Human Rights, the judges rejected claims that

for Social Security, had acted irrationally or unlawfully when he introduced the changes.

In the case brought by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and "Miss B" — who fled Zaire after her husband was murdered and she was raped while held by security forces the judges ruled the withdrawal of benefits could not be said to be the same as forcing the deportation or expulsion of asylum seekers or withdrawing appeal rights, in contravention of the United Nations Convention on Refugees.

However, they gave the JCWI and Miss B leave to appeal.

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# Prawn Mayonnaise Sansaise BREAD ATMEAL

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# Ministers may support Bill to outlaw stalking

would give police the power to

arrest people who breached

orders. But the Government is

under pressure to make stalk-

ing a criminal offence from

some of its own backbenchers.

as well as Labour, which wants

to see a tougher message to men

who can cause years of terror

without touching their victims. Ms Anderson, MP for

Rossendale and Darwen, be-

lieves she has come up with a

solution which will satisfy all

sides, by creating a "hybrid" of-fence of stalking. Her Bill would

make stalking a crime, but

would also provide for civil or-

ders banning perpetrators from

going near their victims. Tun Lawson-Cruttenden, a

solicitor who is advising Ms An-

derson, said the problem with

making stalking a crime is that

the stalker's intentions would

have to be proved "beyond rea-

sonable doubt". The test for ob-

taining a civil order would only

be that on the "balance of

probabilities" the stalker was

reckless as to whether his ac-

tions caused distress or fear.

The Government could back an apposition move to make stalking a crime, after David Maclean, the Home Office minister, invited the Labour MP Janet Anderson to discuss the issue with his civil servants.

Ms Anderson is drafting a private member's Bill to outlay obsessive pursuit, usually of women by men, which falls short of intentional harassment or threatening behaviour.

She said that she got the impression from her meeting on Monday that the Home Office might back her measure "if I got the wording right"

The Home Office has resisted legislation against stalking. out has recently said that it is being considered. Last week. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, floated the dea of extending "non-moestation orders", which curently cover married and cohabiting couples, to cover stalking by strangers or work Lord Mackay's plan would be

Second Reading on 19 April. Prosecutions for intentional

Britain's bridges set to fail 40-tonne lorry limit

**CHRIS BLACKHURST** Nestminster Correspondent

3ritain's motorway and trunk road bridges are unlikely to be eady in time to comply with an EU directive requiring them to ne strong enough to carry 40 onne trucks, says a report pubished today.

A study by the National Aulit Office, the public spending vatchdog, of the Government's 2.2bn motorway and main oad bridge repair and upgrading programme, found it ias fallen behind schedule. Of he 1.241 bridges that need trengthening to meet the EU uling, only a third have been public spending. So far, some

dealt with since the programme was launched in 1987.

To hit the deadline, the Highways Agency, the Department of Transport's road management organisation, must strengthen almost twice as many bridges in the next three years. "A marked acceleration is required . . . if the Highways Agency's aims are to be achieved." But the bridges are also crumbling: the NAO found the number suffering "extensive deterioration" has gone up from 4 per cent since the programme began, to 7 per cent.

An added complication is the Government's squeeze on

Bernard Quinn for stalking the

Princess Royal and Klaus Wag-

ner for stalking the Princess of

Wales, because of the difficul-

mons when she introduced ber

Bill earlier this month: "British

women who have been stalked

are frustrated by the inade-

quacy of British law. And while

the targets of obsession go on

suffering, police are frustrated

and angry with the absence of

a specific offence of stalking."

cases where women's lives had

been "devastated by the actions

of obsessive former partners, or

sometimes complete strangers".

would be defined as a "course

of behaviour" of molestation,

pestering or following likely to

Ms Anderson said that the

Conservative MPs Sir Ivan

Lawrence and Lady Olga Mait-

land and Michael Shersby have

indicated that they would sup-

harass, alarm or distress.

port her Bill.

Under her Bill, stalking

She said there were too many

Ms Anderson told the Com-

ty of proving intent.

vear's allocation is £120m. Future spending and the speed of the programme has been thrown into further doubt. though, by the last Budget in which Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, announced a tightening on funding for roads building and maintenance. "The Highways Agency's latest plans and targets . . . are being

reassessed," noted the NAO.

The watchdog exposed a huge discrepancy in the cost of doing the work. In a survey of 173 bridges they found the costs charged by the agency's contractors ranged from £53 to £130 per square metre.



Stepping out: Schools minister Cheryl Gillan at The Royal Ballet School, Hammersmith, London, yesterday, when she announced an expansion of the Music and Ballet Assisted-Places Scheme

# Major puts faith in attacking tactics

Faced with the claim Tory-controlled Westminster city Her Bill is due to receive its council housed homeless families in asbestos-riddled tower blocks, John Major yesterday adopted the line of defence that he and his Government have made a standard tactic – find a

Westminster may have put lives at risk in pursuit of its "homes-for-votes policy", as an independent report suggests, but what MPs should be concerned about is rents and empty council homes in Lambeth and Hackney. That was the Prime Minister's Question

Mr Major went on to blame

Labour for undermining confidence in British beef and the farming industry. And as an unsurprised Tony Blair pointed out, the same had occurred over the Scott report on arms-to-Iraq when Mr Major heaped opprobrium on Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary. \*Does he not realise this country expects him as Prime Minister to take responsibility?" the Labour leader asked.

☐ PM targets Labour front bench ☐ Scaremonger claim over nuclear power

A report published on Monday on Hermes and Chantry Points in Paddington, west London, said danger warnings were ignored or played down by the inservative group's leaders as they attempted to ensure likely Labour voters were housed in Labour wards.

Raising the issue, Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, noted that two weeks ago when he had asked about unemployment, Mr Major had "lambasted" Liverpool city council. "Will the Prime Minister now unequivocally condemn Tory Westminster council for risking the health of its people for political purposes by housing them in asbestos-ridden flats?"

Mr Major said the issue was "very properly" investigated by Westminster who had commissioned an independent report and taken action in the light of it. Almost drowned beneath Labour jeers, he suggested that since Mr Wareing was sensitive about his own local authority "appalling as it is" - he should compare two other Labour Opening a Labour-initiated

councils with Westminster. "He might actually compare the rent arrears in Lambeth, at: six times the level at Westmin-



Stephen Goodwin

ster, and at Hackney, 10 times as great; and 21 times as many unoccupied dwellings in Lambeth and 23 times as many unoccupied dwellings in Hackney. "Whose housing policies really are the disgrace?" Mr Ma-

jor demanded to Tory cheers, the deeds of Dame Shirley Porter's old council swept aside. in Ayrshire, he said.

Margaret Beckett, the shad-ow industry secretary, was the next to be accused of "scaremongering" when she called on the Government to halt the "fol-ly" of its £2.6bn nuclear power

debate, Mrs Beckett said there was real fear a privatised nuclear power industry was likely to make "small erosions into safety margins for commerciai gain". Tim Eggar, Minister for Energy, dismissed the claim as "pure scaremongering".
Mr Eggar was pressed by the former Labour energy spokes-

man Martin O'Neill over the safety investigation launched after an emergency shutdown during refuelling at Heysham 2 power station, in Lancashire.

Mr Eggar reminded MPs that the Heysham incident occurred as a fuel rod was being lowered into the reactor. Some 150 fuel changes had been carried out "without any problems". On-load refuelling was continuing at Hinckley Point B in Somerset and Hunterston B

unkte

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

MP in

welfare

warning

to Blair

Tony Blair was urged last night by a leading backbench expert on social security not to adopt means-testing of child benefit and the state pension in Labour's fundamental review of the welfare state.

Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, is looking at means-testing as part of Labour's review to reduce the burden of the welfare state onder a Labour government.

As an alternative to meanstesting, Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, urged Labour to expand the role of the mutual aid societies, including building societies.

He called for the party to consider proposals by the mutual aid societies for a three-tier welfare state: a state-guaranteed minimum; the compulsory purchase of a comprehensive policy covering all main social security needs; and voluntary membership of top-up additional insurance coverage.

Mr Smith will publish policy papers on reform of the welfare tate in May: on pensions, welfare to work, child benefit, efficiency savings, and a possible statement of principles.

Mr Field chamman of the Commons select committee on social security, warned the Labour leadership that meanstesting would leave the poor in a social security ghetto.

Accepting that the rising cost of the welfare state was not sustainable in the longer run, Mr Field forecast a "major disengagement". "The easiest and most popular way of achieving his outcome would be for a further disengagement from universal benefits, allowing the middle-class to order their own welfare provision and regimenting the poor ever more into ghetto-type schemes," Mr Field said in the Allen Lane Foundation memorial lecture. ■ The Government was defeated last night in the Com-mittee Stage of the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill on plans to allow disabled people to buy care. About 700,000 people are now potentially eligible for the scheme - 20 times more than envisaged.

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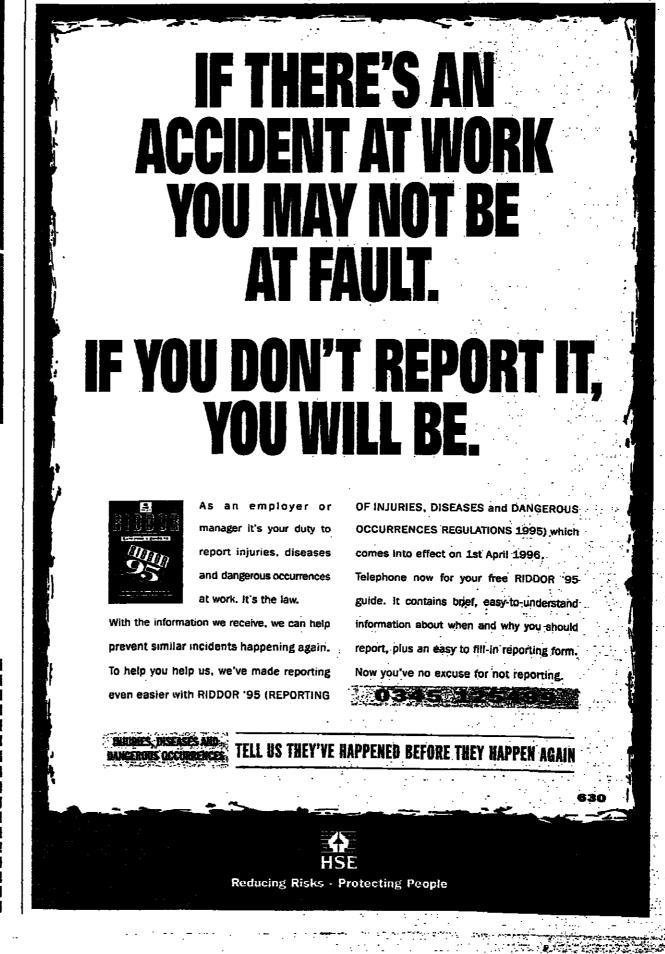
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# **US** anti-terror forum poised to miss target

PATRICK COCKBURN

The US will tomorrow convenea meeting of anti-terrorism experts to agree new approaches to the problem in the Middle East. But they are likely to find their different analyses undermine efforts to find agree-

In Joseph Conrad's The Secret Agent, a diplomat who fancies himself as an expert on counter-terrorism speaks of the "revolutionary party one moment as a perfectly disciplined army, where the word of chiefs was supreme, and at another as if it had been the loosest association of desperate brigands that ever-camped in a mountain gorge".
The security specialists from

29 countries, who will gather in Washington in a follow-up to the Sharm el-Sheikh conference assembled by President Clinton two weeks ago, are likely to show similar confusion in their analysis of terrorist groups and measures to counter them.

First, evidence that the CIA supported a bombing campaign by the Iraqi opposition - as revealed in the *independent* this

ground is muddy; second, the US leads the camp which sees terrorism as "a perfectly disciplined army", with its general headquarters in Iran. It has pointed its finger at Tehran ever since four suicide bombers from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the militant Palestinian Islamic movements, killed 62 people

in Israel in nine days.

The problem with this thesis is that there is little evidence it is true; Hamas has traditionally drawn its support from Jordan. It is also in the nature of a suicide bombing that it requires little equipment, training or money. Iran may have been involved but the US has yet to produce evidence. Despite this, the agenda of

the Washington conference - it is to be followed by a meeting of foreign ministers on 14 April - will treat terrorism as the fruit of a single organisation. Few European or Arab coun-

tries are happy with this. In so far as they have a picture of terrorists it is closer to the image of "an association of brigands". They see suicide bombs as the effect as much as the cause of a crumbling peace process.

President Clinton said: "The

rect assault." But in the Palestinian refugee camps, from where the bombers came, few have seen any of these achievements or benefited from them. France and Egypt say they

want the Washington agenda to be broadened to include ob-stacles to peace other than terrorism, such as Israel's decision to seal off Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. France also wants the EU to co-chair the next meeting and the one after that to be held in Paris. Israel was buoyed by the Sharm el-Sheikh summit. More than any other US president be-fore, Mr Clinton backed the

On Iran, the Israeli and US positions are the same. Shimon Peres, the prime minister, said: "Tehran has become the capital of terror." He has also been heartened by a slight recovery in the polls, but he remains vulnerable to another bomb.

Israeli position.

Sharm el-Sheikh took place in the immediate aftermath of the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem bombings. Its success will be difficult to repeat. Great powers have been organising meetings to oppose terrorism for over a century with little success. They



Death on the street: The suicide bombing in Jerusalem on 25 February that killed 22 people

usually fail because the organisers see bombers and assassins as a minority who can be elimmated rather than the symptom of a broader political crisis. Conferences like the one in Washington are also tradition-

but the US admits to financing Iraqi opposition groups in Kurdistan which have, in turn, exploded bombs in the streets of Baghdad, killing more than 100 ally discredited by the large people in the past few years.

measure of hypocrisy involved. Iran may support Islamic Jihad.

recognise the only solution to advice you Americans gave Alterror is political. When Warren geria in dealing with their prob-Christopher, the US Secretary of State, was pressing Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO , to root out Hamas, the

At heart, most countries have replied: "I will follow the lems." His point was that the US had advised Algerian leaders to mentalist rebels because they

spontaneity" card and a "We

need more common interests"

card. There is even an in-laws

card. "We have a problem that's

been building ... We both know what I'm talking about . . .

I wonder if they have one protesting another year on the

ageometer. Addressed to God:

You up there. We have a prob-

lem. You know it and I know it.

You have to stop with this re-

ach, crashing-bank-account

business. Quit it, or it will be

Photograph: AP

#### **Tourists** 'were killed for kicks'

ROBERT MILLIKEN

Ivan Milat, the road-worker accused of killing two British women and five other young hitch-hikers, killed for "psy-chological gratification", the jury was told as his trial opened at the Supreme Court in Syd-

ney yesterday.

The description came from Mark Tedeschi QC, for the prosecution. Mr Milat, 51, has pleaded not guilty to seven charges of murdering the British women, Caroline Clarke and Joanne Walters, both 22, two Australian teenagers and three Germans in their early twenties. They all disappeared while hitch-hiking south of Sydney between December 1989 and April 1992.

Mr Tedeschi gave the most concrete description so far of Mr Milat's alleged motives when he outlined the evidence of Paul Onions, a British engineer who is expected to be a star witness. In January 1990, Mr Onions, then 24, began hitch-hiking along the Hume Highway towards Melbourne.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Onions accepted a lift from Ivan Milat, who then tried to rob and murder him. "The postmortem evidence was that these were killings for killing's sake," Mr Tedeschi said. "The backpackers were killed with more ferocious force than was needed for killing. They were disposed of in a way which ensured their speedy disintegration." After Mr Onions returned to

Britain, reports of the disappearances of the backpackers prompted him to confact the New South Wales police. He went back to Australia in 1994. before Mr Milat's arrest, and showed notice the spot where he was picked up and looked at police video images of 13 people.

After Ivan Milat's arrest in May 1994, police searched his house and those of two of his brothers. Mr Tedeschi told the jury that they found a bolt, trigger mechanism, spring and two magazines from a Ruger rifle in a wall cavity at Ivan Milat's house. The bolt, ballistic experts said, was the same one that fired the 10 cartridge cases found near Caroline Clarke's body. The trial continues.

#### Tower of babble casts shadow over the greetings card game "I think it's safe to say that most

It is my birthday and so far Self-Confidence Can't Be everyone has been most tactful. No unkind telephone calls from friends asking what it is like to are quotes from Bette Davis and be nearer to 40 than 30. Even the cards have been more or less nugget of advice: "When you're innocuous with the possible exception of the fat pink hippo from my two-year-old daughter.

Solace also presents itself in a full-page advertisement in the New York Times for a book of short essays on maintaining one's personal equilibrium in a stress-filled world, one for each day of the year. It is called Simple Abundance. A Daybook of

played as if just for me. "Why. the books listed on last week's not want to be a recipient of a

Hip Chick

Bought but Can be Borrowed", Eleanor Roosevelt, and this unsure of yourself but life requires you to be otherwise, it is comforting to remember that you can always borrow a selfconfident attitude from your au-

thentic self". Pardon? The shelves and airwaves of America are so crammed with this self-help babble that you. might wonder why the entire country is not wildly happy and

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#### NEW YORK DAYS

New York Times best-sellers' list was: Chicken Soup for the Soul (stories meant to open the heart and rekindle the spirit on the list for 77 weeks) and The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (244 weeks).

Now even the greetings card industry is getting in on the mass-therapy act. Among those I received this morning, none were from Paramount Cards from Rhode Island. And for Comfort and loy.

prosperous rather than hooked that, I am most profoundly.

The entry for my day is dison Prozac and analysis. Among grateful. On the whole, you do prosperous rather than hooked that, I am most profoundly.

Paramount card, pretty though they are, especially if it is from its new Paper Rainbow Press

The Paper Rainbow cards are apparently designed for people who have something delicate to communicate to their partner but somehow cannot find the words - or, more likely, the courage - to say it out loud. Buy enough of these cards and you could virtually hold an entire conversation with your loved one (or not) without opening

would be unlikely to survive until the end, bowever. With its water-colour of a

pine forest and blue hills, there is this, for instance: "This isn't easy for me to say, but I'm starting to think that things aren't really going anywhere with us, and that maybe we're just not meant for each other". And that s just on the outside. Inside it goes on: There are certain things we simply don't have that are necessary to make a relationship

work, and that's why I think it's best to end things now, before either one of us gets really hurt". Well thank you. darling. Or for the couple fighting over

the Paper Rainbow series also who should pay the phone bill:

ceding-hair-line, bulging-stomtime we try putting our differences aside and work on a solution we both can live with" Featured - though in giggling tones - in New York magazine's most recent consumer column,

Applicants must be aged 18 or diver. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open on account for you. First Direct credit labilities are subject to status. Member HSBC 🖾 Group

couples will argue over money

at one point or other. But what

troubles me is that with us, it

seems to be more than just a mi-

nor source of conflict". Inside:

"I'd hate to think that the issue

of money could eventually come

between us, especially when

there are so many aspects of our

relationship that are good. I

know we've been over this many

times before, but maybe it's

all over between us". XXXX Lots of love,

David Usborne

EPORT II,

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# international

# Paris and Bonn relaunch single currency plan

MARY DEJEVSKY

France and Germany yesterday made a concerted effort to relaunch economic and monetary union, saying it was economically necessary and politically possible. But the arrangements they set out spell trouble for Britain, because they would begin to create a two-tier EU.

The French Finance Minister, Jean Arthuis, said after a Franco-German summit that Bonn and Paris were determined to launch a single currency by the 1999 deadline laid down in the Maastricht Treaty. He said both countries were confident of the prospects for economic recovery and added that they were resolutely determined to reduce their public deficits. His counterpart, Theo Waigel, said the economic upturn was interrupted but Germany was not headed for a recession. The two were meeting for

their half-yearly council in Laval 300 km west of Paris. where Mr Arthuis is mayor. For the first time, the details

of how monetary union might operate politically and in the foreign-exchange markets were spelt out. Mr Arthuis said France and Germany agreed on the need for a system governing exchange-rate relations between those who join a single European currency in 1999 and those who stay outside.

The exchange-rate mechanism would allow for "intervention by the European central hank, with the euro as the anchor-point." Mr Arthuis said. We do not want to make way for competitive devaluations." And he called for a council of

nomic policy after a single currency had been launched. "We are talking about a council made up of ministers in the third phase (of European mon-

Mr Waigel said any change in the timetable for Europe's monetary union could lead to prob-



Jacques Chirac: 'France

market. "We plan to stick to the timetable, since everything else could lead to exchange-rate

tensions. Hans Tietmever, the Bundesbank president, also said the central bank supports monetary union and plans to meet the prescribed timetable. "I be-

ditions are fulfilled in such a way to make the currency union a stability union." There has been little sign of enthusiasm for monetary union in the Bundesbank so far, it has expressed fears that if handled badly, it could create financial and economic turmoil.

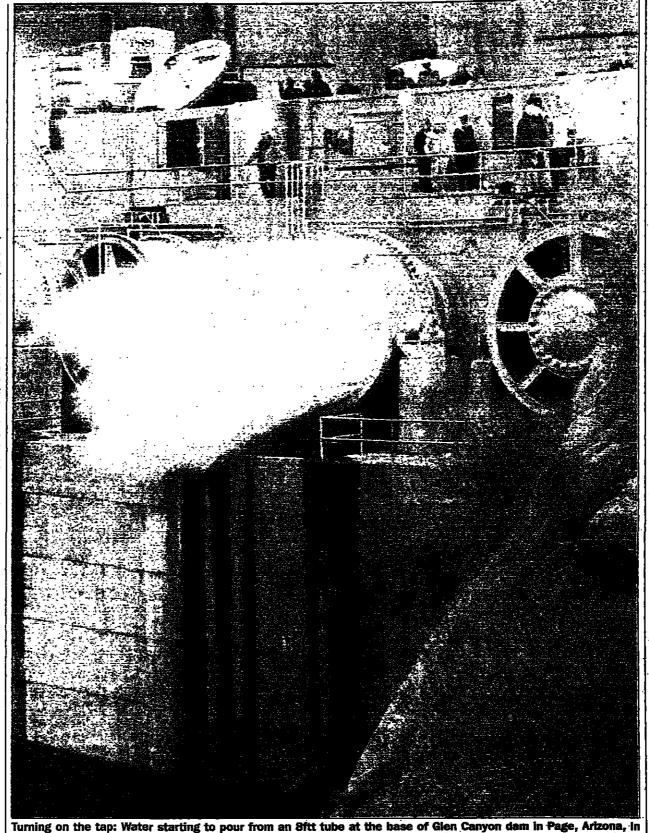
But Mr Tietmeyer added that a "stability pact" was necessary for monetary union to be a success. This is a proposal to enforce strict curbs on public debt and deficits after EU nations form a single currency. Mr Waigel emphasised that

he felt automatic sanctions to punish nations that overstep the oundaries of the Maastricht Treaty criteria were the best way to ensure fiscal discipline. "I think automatic sanctions are better than if a group has to convene to make the decision."

The French Prime Minister. Alain Juppe, yesterday pubished instructions to ministers to ensure preparations for introducing the euro were in place in good time for the planned introduction of the coinage on 1 July, 2002. The instruction, issued days before the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference in Turin. seemed designed to reinforce the message conveyed by President Jacques Chirac in a newspaper article that France was politically and economically on course to meet the deadline for

joining the currency.

French officials fear the countries on the edge of the single currency should not be able to profit from "competitive devaluation" - attracting jobs to their countries and buyers for their goods by reducing prices against the single currency and lieve the start-date must be so placing the single-currency



Turning on the tap: Water starting to pour from an 8ftt tube at the base of Glen Canyon dam in Page, Arizona, In a first-time experiment on the flooding of the Colorado River, which runs through the Grand Canyon Photograph: AP

# Christine JUDVI Ockrent resigns from top magazine

Paris - One of France's leading media figures. Christine Ockrent, resigned yesterday as director and editor in chief of l'Express, the nation's highest circulation weekly magazine. writes Mary Dejevsky. Her resignation came five months after a change in the magazine's ownership and a week after a statement by the new owners, part of the giant Havas group, that they wanted it to "become closer to the readers".

Although the author of the words, Christian Bregou of CEP Communications denied that his remarks implied a change of editorial direction down-market and away from the political and foreign coverage Ms Ockrent had favoured his comment was widely interpreted as a sign that Ms Ockrent's days in the magazine's chair were numbered.

In a letter to staff yesterday, she said she was leaving "with head held high and a generous heart" but went on: "It is clear that the owners of l'Express have a different vision of what

the magazine should be'.

Ms Ockrent also presents an influential late-night political programme on one of France's two state-owned television channels. In a radical redesign of the magazine last autumn, she introduced more pictures and what was regarded at the time as a more "televisual" style of presentation. The changes were credited with increasing the magazine's read-

ership by almost one-third. The increase was not maintained, however, and year-end figures showed the left-of-centre Nouvel Observateur overtaking l'Express in domestic sales. Only l'Express's foreign sales kept it at the top.

While editorial and personal differences — her strong and, some say, difficult per-sonality divided the magazine's staff - are the immediate reason for Ms Ockrent's departure, her resignation is also a symptom of a gradual shift in the French media and business establishment as those associated with the political left give wayto those more in tune with the

prevailing political direction. Although l'Express mostly seems politically neutral, if anything leaning slightly to the right, Ms Ockrent is associated with the left wing and married - like several leading French journalists – to a politician, Bernard Kouchner, the former socialist minister and founder of Médecins sans Frontières.

The new director of l'Express s expected to be Denis Jeambar, former head of the Europe

#### London to Bordeaux in seven hours on new French railway

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The creation of an integrated Europe-wide high-speed rail network moved a little closer vesterday with the announcement of the start of a range of new cross-border services.

SNCF, the French state railway, announced the launch from 2 June of a new high-speed service linking Paris with Brussels and Amsterdam. The trains will take just over two hours to the Belgian capital, cutting 40 minutes off the existing times and making it much more com-

This week and

Section Two has a

with more pages,

expanded listings

section providing

Britain's most

completely new look,

new features, a daily

radio column and an

comprehensive daily

guide to going out.

every week,

A red and grey fleet of trains, been introduced which can be used on French, Belgian and Dutch railways even though tems. A train which can also run to Cologne in Germany, which uses vet another voltage, is being introduced in 1998.

terdam will take four and three- bations of north-west Europe quarter hours from Paris. will be linked by high-speed However, when the Belgian trains running at 300kpb high-speed line is completed in (186mph) on dedicated lines 1998. Paris-Brussels will take and 220kph (136mph) on up-

under the Thalys brand, has they have different electrical sys-SNCF hopes that within 10 under four hours.

graded conventional lines.

The 2 June launch date also sees the completion of the rail by-pass round Paris which onens the way for British trayellers on Eurostar to reach cities on the TGV Atlantique line, such as Bordeaux and Nantes, with just one change at Lille. Bordeaux is five hours from Lille, while Nantes is just

# Paris owns up to secret sculpture plot

MARY DEJEVSKY

The latest spectacular plan in the Parisian tradition of pioneering exhibitions and grand municipal projects comes to fruition next month when the city's most famous thoroughfare forms the backdrop for a

unique sculpture exhibition. Work began yesterday to install more than 50 works of 20th-century sculpture, taken mostly from Paris sites and collections, on a kilometre-long stretch of the Champs Elysées between the Place de la Concorde and the Rond Point, where six avenues converge.

The exhibition was supposed to have been kept a secret. Paris commuters, the city council had hoped, would emerge from the Concorde and Champs Elysées metro stations one morning to be surprised and delighted by the sight before them.

But the secret was broken last weekend by a discreet announcement in the Figuro news-paper's colour magazine, which said that Parisians in the know were talking of nothing else and the secret would out.

Everyone wanted to know, the magazine said, how on earth a four-ton Picasso was going to be moved to a central Paris pavement, and how a tors Henry Moore, Barbara

trick of lighting would make the obelisk on the Place de la Conwick will also be represented. corde appear in the middle of a work by Yves Klein. A spokesman for Paris town

hall yesterday confirmed that musings of this kind were not mere wishful thinking or premature April foolishness. The exhibition is to open on 11 April and last two months.

The works are to be arranged in chronological order and are presented as landmarks in the sculpture of this century. As well as the Picasso and the Klein, the exhibition will include three Rodins, a Miro, a Giacometti and a Léger. The British sculp-

One purpose of the exhibition is to celebrate the completion of a five-year project to restore the Champs Elysées as the

promenade that its 17th-century architect intended. The road has been narrowed, the pavements widened - by more than 60 feet - and a second line of plane trees planted to give its lower reaches a more park-like feel.

The sculpture exhibition is intended not only to show off some of the most distinguished pieces of modern sculpture. but also to demonstrate that the Champs Elysées is once more

# This week in the independent

on Monday A new section focusing on Family Life, beginning with an investigation into how children's television is threatening the family unit. In the centre pages, each week we challenge the personalities and institutions that have become icons of Nineties life. On Monday, we ask: Do we need Start the Week? Plus: In the second part of our series on the making of the modern girl, we examine teenage attitudes to sex, relationships

Tuesday

Part three of the making of the modern girl: how the Nineties generation gets what it wants. Plus: Health - a new treatment for chronic fatigue.

Theatre, midweek travel section, your money, finance and law. Plus - Final part of the making of the modern girl: what the future holds for the teenager of the Nineties

All our regular features, including Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education and graduate

24Seven - a brand new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

A 24-page section with all the action from a big weekend of sport. Plus: Part one of a major investigation into the crisis afflicting English cricket. Where does our summer game go from here? And the Monday interview with Alan Shearer, the striker who doesn't mind not scoring goals for England.

Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media. Our new back pages section introduces a weekly feature on the history of popular culture.

In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists; present their views of the modern.

plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 10-1/2 inches

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights



# Subversion law causes Slovak uproar

**ADRIAN BRIDGE** Bratislava

Ihristin, F

Amid furious accusations of a revival of Communist repression, the Slovak parliament yesterday ratified a controversial new law aimed at protecting the. state against subversion.

The debate on the so-called

Republic provoked uproar on opposition benches, where speakers denounced it as a throwback to the legislation of the Communist era and a fur-

Kabul's

jets try

to drive

off rebels

Kabul (Reuter) - Afghan gov-ernment jets bombed rebel

positions outside the capital

yesterday, killing up to 50 peo-ple, the Defence Ministry said.

An official said 20 people were also wounded as the jets

hrt Charasyab, 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Kabul, where com-

manders of the Taliban Islam-

ic militia were meeting to

discuss plans for their war

against the government. There was no independent confirma-

Earlier, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service said forces

loyal to President Burhanuddin

Rabbani also directed artiflery

fire at Charasyab.

The Taliban reoccupied Cha-

rasyab in October, six months after losing it to government forces, and have frequently shelled Kabul from hills to the

south and west of the city. Yes-

terday's attacks came amid ru-

mours that the government

would soon launch an offensive

to drive the Taliban out of

ics invited to a meeting to discuss making a peace offer to Kabul had reached the south-

ern town of Kandahar, the mili-

tia's headquarters. The meeting

The council of the clerics,

from 15 Taliban-held provinces and other parts of the country.

has the authority to decide

whether to pursue war or ne-

could start in a day or two.

Taliban sources said 300 cler-

artillery range of the capital.

tion of the report.

ther blow to Slovakia's already tarnished international image.

Opposition deputies banged their desks and jeered as news came through that the law had been approved by a margin of 77 to 57. Peter Weiss, leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (SDL), said the law would limit freedom of expression, as-Law on the Protection of the sembly and information and promised to challenge it in the constitutional court.

Other speakers compared some of the law's provisions with a similar "anti-subversion"

measure passed in 1948 by the defence capability of the Communist government of the then Czechoslovakia.

Under the law, technically an amendment to the criminal code, Slovak citizens could face two years' imprisonment if found guilty of "disseminating false information abroad damaging to the interests of the

Other clauses point to stiff penalties for organisers of public rallies judged to be aimed at subverting the constitutional system, territorial integrity or country.

The government insists that the law complies with accepted international norms, but critics 5ay the vagueness of its wording leaves it open to a wide varicty of interpretation and that, in the wrong hands, it could be used to silence opposition. Western diplomats, some of whom in the past have openly questioned Slovakia's progress lowards democracy, have also

sought clarification of the new

the Republic is one of a package of tough new laws believed to be part of a deal agreed between the Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar, and the farright Slovak National Party

(SNS), a junior partner in his

ruling coalition. In return for Mr Meciar's agreement to introduce the new measures, nationalist MPs agreed to support his attempt to win parliamentary backing for a Basic Treaty with Hungary agreed in principle just over a

which was approved by the Hungarian parliament last summer, was ratified by Slovak MPs by 119 to 1.

Under the Basic Treaty, Hungary accepts the inviolability of its border with Slovakia in return for guarantees concerning the rights of Slovakia's 600,000 ethnic Hungarian

Both Bratislava and Budapest hope that the agreement shows the two countries have put old animosities aside and will there-

The Law on the Protection of year ago. Last night the treaty, by strengthen their bids to join the European Union and Nato. While welcoming the Basic Treaty, representatives of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia remain extremely mistrustful of

the government in Bratislava. Ethnic Hungarian leaders say that a law passed late last vear enshrining Slovak as the only official language clearly goes against the spirit of the treaty. They are also alarmed by the new anti-subversion law. fearing that it will be used

#### The Queen pledges support for Poland

Warsaw — The Queen assured Poles vesterday that Britain would support their efforts to join the European Union and Nato. In a speech to parliament she recalled close ties with Poland during the Second World War. "We will never for-get ... the courage of the Pol-ish pilots, part of the few to whom Churchill rightly said so

#### much was owed," she said. AP Shrine siege ends

Srinagar — About 17 armed separatist guerrillas ended a two-day occupation of Kashmir's holiest shrine last night, leaving the buildings peacefully after an agreement with the Indian government. A rebel spokesman denied the guerrillas had surrendered. Reuter

#### Russians accused

Vienna — Russian soldiers have used excessive force, and engaged in robbery, looting and arson in their offensive against rebels in Chechnya, said a report by the Organization for Sccurity and Co-operation in Europe, which also criticised the rebels for hostage-taking. AP

#### 77-vear exile ends

Vienna - The government ended a 77-year-long entry ban on two aged sons of Austria's last emperor, Karl I, who abdicated in 1919, agreeing to issue them with valid passports. AP

#### **President testifies**

Bogota - The Colombian President, Ernesto Samper, testified yesterday in a widen-ing investigation that could lead to his impeachment on charges that his 1994 election campaign was bankrolled by Cali drug lords.

#### Carter aide dies

Washington — Edmund Muskie, former Secretary of State under President Carter, died vesterday at 81 after a heart attack. He was briefly a contender for the presidential nomination in 1972.

#### Bahrain firing squad Manama — A Bahraini anti-

Obituary, page 16

government protester, found guilty of murdering a police sergeant last year, was executed by firing squad.

#### Shere ambition

Bonn - The American feminist Shere Hite said she has become a German citizen and may use her new status to run for the Photograph: Tom Pilston | European parliament. Rewer



Whenever ou're ready to talk, re're ready to listen.

our feelings. But the country with the stiffest upper lips also has one of the highest suicide rates in Europe.

gotiate peace with Mr.Rabbani. Capital losses: The remains of a Kabul street. The government is said to be preparing an attempt to drive rebels beyond artillery range of the city

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	£3,000	17.9%	£106.42	£3,831.1
BARCLAYS	£6,000	17.9%	£212.84	£7,662.2
	£3,000	16.9%	£105.05	£3,781.8
NAT WEST	£6,000	15.9%	£207.54	£7,471.4
	£3,000	16.9%	£105.05	£3,781.8
ABBEY NATIONAL	£6,000	15.9%	£207.54	£7,471.4



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After the stand-off: Peking loses face but Taipei realises that there is no short-term solution



# Taiwan players weigh next move

TERESA POOLE

In central Taipei yesterday afternoon workmen were clinging perilously to the side of the Chinese Bank building, disrobing it of a billowing 10-storey-high election portrait of President Lee Teng-hui. Four days after Taiwan's pres-

idential polls, the bunting has come down, Peking has stopped lambasting Mr Lee as a traitor to the motherland and one of two US aircraft-carriers in the region, the Independence, is preparing to move away. But now the dust has settled and the immediate threat of military conflict eased, what has been been changed by the sound and fury surrounding the island's election'.

in reking, the Foreign Min istry spokesman reiterated the possibility of reopening talks but only on condition Taipei dropped all "official, governmental or state-to-state relations with the outside world" and abandoned its attempt to be recognised by the United Nations. A Peking-controlled attend the Asia-Pacific Eco-

Hong Kong paper, Wen Wei Po, said China "is not ruling out the possibility of holding military exercises again or taking other military action if Lee Teng-hui acted wilfully and plotted to split the motherland".

The immediate crisis may have passed, but much of the rhetoric remains the same. So who are the winners and losers so far in this battle of nerves?

TAIWAN: Mr Lee's 54-per-cent share of the vote was a personal triumph, but now he must decide how to stabilise relations with the mainland.

for his "pragmatic diplomacy" policy, aimed at raising Taiwan's international status, but must weigh up how aggressive to be over the question of foreign visand larwan's UN bid. After China's military show of force, other countries may be less willing to risk inviting Mr Lee for "private" visits, despite his newly enhanced status as a democratically elected leader.

The Philippines made it clear this week that Mr Lee will not

nomic Co-operation summit in Manila in November. As before, Taiwan can only send ministerial representatives, which many Taiwanese feel is an insult. Restarting negotiations is

likely to depend on Peking's attitude. Taiwan's leaders want non-governmental talks to resume but not at any price. Mainland preconditions could yet undermine the apparent willingness of the two sides to re-engage. In any concessions, Mr Lee will be under pressure from the domestic pro-independence opposition; the ruling Knomintang party now has a majority of just one in parlia-He can claim a solid mandate ment. Mr Lee is likely to offer talks on the three direct links air, shipping and post and telephone - which Peking is demanding. Such a move would

> an arms build-up by Taiwan, if it can find suppliers. The US decision last week to supply more defensive weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, still leaves Taipei with a shopping-list of de-fence requirements, including

community.

also please larwan's

more submarines and anti-missile equipment.

CHINA: Peking has suffered a serious loss of face over its attempt to scare voters away from Mr Lee. But it has driven home the point that its refusal to renounce the use of force against Taiwan is not something the world can dismiss lightly.

Strategy towards Taiwan is in flux as the leadership considers its options. Given the behindthe-scenes factional struggles, it can take months for policy disputes to be resolved. The mainland itself slammed the door on the unofficial talks last year, and China's leaders cannot be seen to be climbing down.

One question is whether army hardliners want to push. as rumoured, for a specific reunification timetable, or whether some vague restate-One result of the crisis will be ment of the Kuomintang's One China policy will suffice.

Since the election, the immediate target of Peking's wrath has switched from Mr Lee to Washington's new arms sales to Taiwan. Pentagon support of Taiwan has reinforced Peking's view that the US is increasingly bent on containing China.

Over the next few weeks, Peking will carefully monitor Mr Lee's actions and words. If People's Liberation Army leaders are made to feel humiliated, they still have tens of thousands of troops in Fujian province, across the water from Taiwan. If Peking decides Mr Lee is misbehaving, there could be another show of force at the time of his formal inauguration on 20 May..

UNITED STATES: Washington believes the immediate crisis has passed, but knows that Sino-US relations remain in a perilous state, with Taiwan the most sensitive issue. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said this week: "We will not in the middle, we will not me-

diate, we will not broker. The problem for the US is that it is aiready central to the drama. As Mr Lord said, referring to US relations with China, it was "no secret that over the coming months we face a series of minefields". including possible US sanc-tions over Peking's nuclear sales to Pakistan. The situation is further complicated by US politics in a presidential election year, and the vote-losing potential of appearing soft on China. Nevertheless, the Clinton administration is likely privately to lean heavily on Mr Lee to reduce his international forays.

In June the US and Taiwan were surprised by the ferocity of China's reaction to Mr Lee's US visa. This month, it was Peking's turn to be taken aback by the despatch of two US aircraft-carriers to the region.

A new status quo has yet to emerge. For Taiwan there is no short-term solution. It took four decades for China and Taiwan just to talk to each other at a non-governmental level. Peking's leadership has little understanding of the profound changes that have taken place in what it insists is a renegade province. At the same time, most Taiwanese have no idea of the intense nationalism that is now Communist Party creed on the mainland, and how that threatens Taiwan.

#### Armed men kidnap **Briton in Cambodia**

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Phnom Penh (Reuter) — The Cambodian government is negotiating for the release of a British mine disposal specialist and his interpreter, who were among up to 29 disposal workers seized by armed men yesterday, according to the British-based Mines Advisory

The group said that its employee Christopher Howes, from Bristol, and 28 Cambodians had been seized in Siem Reap province.

A government minister earlier put the number kidnapped from the Svay Chek commune. north-west of the capital Phnom Penh. at up to 24. "We learnt that 12 people had escaped and later on the kidnappers re-leased 10 Cambodians. They are still holding one Cambodian and an Englishman." said the Information Minister, leng Mouly, who also heads the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC). Checks were still being carried out, he added, to confirm whether the kidnappers were Khmer Rouge guerillas. The Khmer Rouge last kidnapped foreigners in 1994,

when at least six captives died. An MAG spokeswoman said negotiations were under way with the kidnappers, but refused to give details.

MAG said Mr Howes had been working for the group for three years, and was a member of a five-man team of expatriate specialists training civilians in the detection and destruction of anti-personnel mines.



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weeds Spraying plants with earlie tea repels pests mulching material

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MOTOR INSURANCE

# Edmund Muskie

Senator Edmund Sixtus Muskie team gaining on him in memoirs that "Ed brought to Muskie, Democrat of Maine, was a hard-working and wellliked Democratic politican who came close to being the first Polish-American president in history. Governor, Senator, cabinet officer, Muskie scaled all but the highest peaks of United States politics on more than

He was the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 1972 until he destroyed his own chances by losing his temper during the New Hampshire primary. The leading local newspaper, the Manchester Union-Leader, owned by the extreme right-wing publisher William Loeb, had not only attacked him; it had insulted his

Muskie was so angry that he drove down to the Union-Leader, followed by several television crews. Perched on a flathed truck with the newspaper's offices as a backdrop. Muskie denounced Loeb so emotionally that it looked as if he burst into tears. (Some said it was melting snowflakes.) He later admitted that going down to the newspaper's office was "a mistake, a whopper".

The episode is a classic instance of the power of television to convey a non-verbal message. "It changed people's minds about me," he later told the author Theodore H. White. "They were looking for a strong guy, and here I was weak."

That was not the only time when Muskie came close to the highest political peaks. In 1968. when he was the vicepresidential candidate on the Democratic ticket with Senator Hubert Humphrey, several polls suggested that, if Muskic had been the candidate, he would have won. As it was, it is often forgotten that Richard ren Christopher, now Presimargin, with the Humphrey- State. But Carter wrote in his

the last hours before the polls closed,

In 1972 Muskie won the first Democratic primary in New Hampshire, and might well have won the Democratic presidential nomination had it not been for the Union-Leader incident and for a cynical "dirty tricks" campaign by the Nixon

campaign.
The President's men circulated a wholly faked letter pur-porting to show that Muskie had used the word "Canucks", a contemptuous word for French-Canadians, who are an important part of the Democratic constituency in New Hampshire. The deception became known when the Nixon man, a certain Ken Clawson, was foolish enough to boast of his authorship of the "Canuck" letter to an attractive female reporter on the Washington Post.

In 1976 Muskie was in the final in the contest to be Jimmy Carter's Vice-President. Carter himself confided to his diary that it was a close thing between Muskie and Walter F. "Fritz" Mondale, who eventually became Vice-President.

Muskie, who had been Gov-ernor of Maine from 1955 to 1959 and then a United States Senator from 1959 until 1980. was rewarded by President Carter in that year by appointment as his Secretary of State. a job Muskie greatly enjoyed and did very creditably, though he once confided that it was one job "that never crossed my

Muskie's role was not to get involved in the detail of negotiations, for example, over the return of the American hostages in Tehran. That, and much else of the detail, was left to the Deputy Secretary. Wardent Clinton's Secretary of

the Secretary's office a broad and mature understanding of our nation itself and its international role".

Muskie's parents were Polish immigrants, his father a tailor whose name was changed for him from Marciszewski by immigration officials. He was born in Rumford, a western Maine papermill town, in 1914. He worked his way through a small local college, Bates, and then graduated from Cornell Law School before setting up a law practice in Waterville, Maine.

During the Second World War he served in the US Navy in destroyer escorts. He returned to Waterville and was elected to the Maine legislature in 1946. From 1955 to 1959 he served as Governor of Maine, pushing for laws to clear up air and water pollution. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1959.

Six foot four with a craggy, lugubrious face. Muskie was good company and liked a drink in private. He was a conscientious and honourable politician with a fine speaking voice who lacked only flair. But he did have a temper, and when roused could swear with naval vocabulary.

Early on in his career in the Senate, he showed that he was not a man to be cheaply bought. It was at a time when Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, then the Senate majority leader, was playing a delicate game with his conservative Southern Democratic colleagues over Rule 22, which allowed Southern Sena-

tors to filibuster a civil rights bill. Johnson made it plain to Muskie and other freshman senators that, if they went along with a conservative version of an amendment to Rule 22, one that would effectively enable the South to postpone civil rights

legislation in favour of black citizens, they would be rewarded with assignment to desirable committee assignments. Muskie refused and was punished by two comparatively insignificant committee assignments, to the Government Operations and Public Works committees.

His long career in the Senate was characterised by solid work rather than by glamorous speechifying or the sponsorship of famous legislation. His somewhat dour approach to politics was well illustrated by his remark when asked for a com-

ment on Nixon's victory in 1968.
"In Maine," he replied, "we have a saying that you don't say anything that doesn't improve

Shortly after that 1968 defeat, Muskie quietly convassed his colleagues to see if there was support for his becoming a Democratic Whip, a job that would have led to his becoming the Senate majority leader in succession to Senator Mike Mansfield in due course. Twenty-nine voters would have been enough to get him the job. It was typical of Muskie that when he commissioned by President Maine 28 March 1914; member,

are supporters, instead of trying to win more of his colleagues over by a public bid for the job.

ntious and honourable politician: Muskie (right), the vice-presidential candidate, and his running mate Hubert Humphrey at the Dem

he quietly accepted defeat. After Jimmy Carter was defeared by Ronald Reagan in 1980. Muskie joined a Washington law firm, Chadbourne & Parke, where he remained a partner until his death. He divided his time between Washington DC and a holiday home at Kennebunk, near President Bush's home. He was one of the scandal in the 1980s.

Muskie married Jane Gray of Waterville in 1948. They had two sons and three daughters. His concern for the environment came from his love of the outdoors. He loved to fish in Maine rivers, hunt in Maine's vast forests and even to swim in its icy sea.

Edmund Sixtus Muskie, lawyer and politician; born Rumford, Maine 28 March 1914; member,

for Maine, Office of Price Sta-bilisation 1951-52; Cav Solicitor, Waterville, Maine 1954-55; Governor of the State of Maine 1955-59; US Senator from Maine 1959-80; Senate Assistant Majority Whip 1966-80; Chair, Senate Budget Committee 1974-80; Secretary of State 1980-81; senior irtner, Chadbourne & Parke 1981-96; author of Journeys 1972; married 1948 Jane Grav (two sons, three daughters): died Washington DC 26 March



1947-51; Democratic Floor Reagan into the Iran-Contra found he had only 24 immediader 1949-51; District Director

# Ron Hayward

Ron Hayward was the General Secretary of the Labour Party during the most internally difficult years, both in government and in opposition, in the party's history - from 1972 un-til 1982. He was much reviled by the right of the party for being weak and ineffectual, and by the left who shook their heads at him for allowing himself too actly what he was saying and often, in their view, to become the creature of the leadership.

But no proverbial political Solomon could have done bet-Shortly after he retired. Hayward told me, half-joking but wholly in earnest: "My epitaph might be: 'Ron did his bit to help the Labour Party hold together and survive'." It may seem modest enough, from this modest, unselfimportant, thoroughly decent man, but anyone who attended the Labour Party Conference in the years following 1979 will know that such an epitaph represented no mean achievement.

By the end of Hayward's tenure the Militant Tendency. the Trotskyist left-wing political grouping operating within the Labour Party, had been found in breach of Labour Party rules and faced the threat of expulsion. It fell to Ron Hayward, along with David Hughes, the National Agent, to draw up a report for the Labour National Executive Committee. They were lenient and gave Militant a three-month period in which to conform to Labour rules and offered them what was considered in many quarters as

over-fair treatment. Hayward was by temperament and belief a "roper-in" rather than "a driver-out". He would argue convincingly that however uncomfortable some elements of the party might be it was healthier for Britain to have them inside the body politic rather than feeling excluded, and indeed becoming an excluded political force in so-

ciety. However, Hayward was at no time the creature of Militant, let alone a covert sympathiser. He was a healer. Dennis Skinner, a long-term member of the National Executive, says: "Ron had a spontaneous way of speaking with lots of passion and, even though his language was not precise, you knew exwhere he stood."

Hayward's personal opinion and personal causes placed him firmly on the left of the party. tained, passionate, support of the Allende revolution in Chile and its repression which he regarded as the Spanish Civil War of the second half of the 20th century. He and his wife Phyllis (constantly by his side since they had met - he in the RAF and she in the Women's Air Force - in 1943) befriended President Allende's formidable widow in her exile and showed her characteristic hospitality. Indeed, it was on the subject of his own Labour government's attitude to what had happened in Chile that I saw Hayward show rare fits of sheer

Hayward was an emotional internationalist. In his finale speech to the 1981 Labour Party conference he said:

ing to you. On the travels you have sent me on in the last 10 years. I have talked to peasants and presidents in most parts of the world. I have talked in your name to workers in most parts of the world. I have seen the kids and held the babies of busdreds of people all over the world and never met one working-class man who said to me; "My ambition in life I have an opportunity. Not one single man. It is leaders.

Whatever you do about this [the disarmament controversy in the Labour Partyl remember it is only four minutes, whether you are mul-tilateral or unilateral, it is still four minutes. If you are multi, you have you have had it, 50 million in the So-viet Union will have had it. If you are



'Ron did his bit': Hayward congratulating the Labour Party leader, Harold Wilson, as the results of the January 1974 general election

illateral you might have a little better chance.

In October 1979 Hayward arranged that Peter Shore, then shadow Foreign Secretary. Alec Kitson, party chairman. Jenny Little, International Secretary of the Labour Party, and I as chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Foreign Affairs Committee should go to meet Lord Carrington as the new Foreign Secretary. Leaving the door of the Ambassador's waiting room in the Foreign Office. Hayward turned to us and said: Well, we got more civility. more good sense and a far better hearing from that Tory aris-

tocrat than we ever did from

bloody David Owen." That Owen had been Foreign Secretary in a government of a par-ty of which he was general secretary and had treated himself and those who thought like him so shabbily incensed

Hayward beyond measure. Gwyneth Dunwoody, another member of the National Executive who knew Hayward well, recollects: "He was misunderstood by intellectuals, who did not realise that Havward had a clear understanding of the Labour Party at the grass-roots and at all levels. He was a cheerful anti-intellectual who understood others by a developed instinct and therefore

was underestimated by some of his intellectual opponents."

He was a guardian of the party's traditions and Dunwoody was greatly touched that he should take her into his room in Transport House shortly after he became General Secretary and tell her that he was proud of the fact that he had arranged for his room to be put back exactly as her father Morgan Phillips, the famous post-war General Secretary of the

Labour Party, had had it. Though he was never a supporter of the Common Market it was not the opinions of the Gang of Four which made Hayward see red. (He was tolerant

of views diametrically opposed to his own.) It was their behaviour. How on earth could Shirley Williams sit for all those months on the ruling body, the National Executive Committee, the heart of the Labour Party, without letting on that she had it in mind to desert the party for another party? It was beyond his comprehension that senior party colleagues honoured to be secretaries of state in a Labour government could behave in such an underhand way. His reaction in a curious

values background. Ron Hayward was born into family of Oxfordshire small

farmers but be had a hard upbringing. He had to be fostered and was brought up by his grandparents. He addressed the 1981

Labour Party conference: I want to say this to my commades who I want to say his to my commands who have literally preached bloody revolution, and I knew all about that when I was an apprentice boy at 14 cycling seven miles from a Cotswold village to the nearest town as an apday morning I would pray for a revolution. I never gave up because I hated Monday mornings. If it did not happen this Monday, my goodnot happen ment Monday, in good-ness, it would happen ment Monday. It saw me through many a difficult year, but I want to say to some of these young comrades who have at-tended the fringe meetings at con-ference which I have listened to with treat inspect.

great respect.

I respect your energy, but the way some of you talk you are the last people I would go behind the sandbags with, because the first car that backfired you would be over the wall.

It was part of Ron Hay-ward's make-up that he should be imbued with a service spirit of comradeship which he brought to the Labour Party from the wartime RAF. On demobilisation, idealistically wanting to improve the post-war world, he became secretary and agent to the Banbury Labour Party and in 1949 went to Rochester and Chatham Labour Party which brought him into contact with Arthur Bottomley, the local MP, and indirectly to the notice of the

party leadership. On Bottomley's strong recommendation he became assistant regional organiser to the London Region in 1950 and in 1959 was promoted to Regional Organiser for the South-ern Region of the Labour Party. I remember during the many summer days I spent at the Winchester and Devizes by elections of May 1964 what a wonderful rapport Ron Hayward very obviously had with the many individual members in an area which was not noted for rocksolid Labour support. He did ex-

tremely well on promotion in 1969 to National Agent and improved the atmosphere in Transport House and in the constituencies, winning over the Left without opsetting the right wing of the party at that time.

In the words of Alec Kitson, "Hayward broke the dynasty. He started a new phase in Transport House as a man who had come from the regions and was prepared to reorganise the centre in order to have closer contact with the regions. Before of the hierarchs of the party taking the attitude. If I say, you do do it! Hayward started the process of doing away with light central control."

When it became necessary to appoint a successor to Sir Harry Nicholas as General Secretary of the party the choice was between Gwyn Morgan, for 10 years the energetic and bright International Secretary of the party, and Hayward. On the casting vote of Tony Benn as chairman by 15 votes to 14 Hayward was chosen.

Those colleagues who remain in the Labour Party, especially those who rowed the most with him, will remember Ron and Phyllis Hayward as wonderful comrades sincerely committed to the ideals that they esponsed and continued in espouse throughout their immensely worthwhile lives.

Tam Dalyeli Ronald George Hayward; politician: born near Chipping Sod-bury, Oxfordshire 27 June 1917. Secretary-Agent, Labour Party Banbury Constituency 1945-47 Rochester and Chatham Constituency 1947-50; Assistant Regional Organiser, Labour Parn. 1950-59, Regional Organiser, Southern Region 1959:69, No. tional Agent 1969-72, General Secretary 1972-82; CBE 1970; married 1943 Phyllis Allen (three daughters); died Birchington,

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

MOORES: On 13 March 1996, to Alexis and Nicola Moores, a daughter, Isabella Luciann, a sister for Augustus.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memorian) should be sent in writing to the County Editor. The Indeing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-bour and unchine 0171-293 2012) or fexed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages, in writing (or must be submitted faxed) and are charged at £10 a line VAT extra. They should be accompanled by a daytime telephone number.

The independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### Forthcoming

marriages Mr L. Coventry

and Mrs D. McBrearty The engagement is announced from Johannesburg, between Daphne, daughter of Mr William Elliott, of Brecon, Wales, and of the late Mrs Margery Elliott, and Laurence, son of Mr James Coventry, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and of the late Mrs

Joan Coventry. Birthdays

Lord Amery of Lustleigh, former MP. 77; Mr David Andrews, chairman. Gwion Lid, 63; Miss Ruth Ashton. formet general secretary, Royal College of Midwives, 57; Mr Robert Bauman, chairman, British Aerospace, 65; Professor Alastair Bellingham, President, Royal College of Pathologists, 58; Sir Louis Blum-Cooper QC, Independent Commissioner for the Holding Centres, Northern Ireland, 70; Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, former prime minister. 84: Mr Robert Cohan, choreographer, 71: Mr Richard Denning, actor, 82; Miss Maria Ewing, opera singer, 46; Lord Fanshawe of Richmond, former MP,

69; Mr Julian Glover, actor, 61, Sir David Hancock, former senior civil servant, 62 Mr Nick Hawkins MP, 39. Mr Victor Hochhauser, impresario. Mr Victor Mechaniser, impressio, 73; Lord Lyell, tormer Government minister, 57; Mr Geoffrey Parker, chairman, Teacher Training Agency, 63; Lord Plumb, MEP, 71; Mr Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist and Millian Resironovien, centst and conductor, 194 Mr Budd Schielberg, novellst and screenwriter, 52, Sir Richard Sharp, former senior civil servant, 81; Admiral Sir Jock Shater, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Statil 58; Professor Margaret Studey. sociologist, 74; Mr Frank Taylor, Chief Constable, Durham, e3, Miss Duphne Todd, President, Royal Saeich of Portrait Painters, 49; Mr. Cyrus Vance, former US Secretary of State, 79: Mr Machael York, actor, 54,

Anniversaries

Births: Ferenc II Rakaess, of Tran-Schama, patriot, 1676 Louis XVII. King of France, 1785; Alfred Victor, Comte de Vigns, peet, 1707; Baron Georges-Eugene Haussmann, re-Planner of Paris, 1809. Charles Mackay, poet and journalist, 1814; George Joh Elvey, organist and composer, 1816: Paul-Marie Théodore-Vincent d'Indy, composer, 1851; Sir Freder-

ich Henry Royce, car designer, 1863; Hemrich Mann, novelist, 1871; James Croze, film director, 1884; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, 1886; Karl Mannheim, sociologist, 1893; Dragoljub (Draza) Mihajlovic, Ser-bian soldier and outionalist, 1893; Gloria May Josephine Swanson, ac-tress, 1999, Deaths: Prop Gregory XI, 1378: Marguerite de Valois, Queen of Navarre, 1615: James VI of Scotland James Lof Great Britain, 1625; Gianbanista Tiepolo, painter, 1771; John Bright, statesman, 1859; Myles Birket Foster, painter, 1806, Sir James Dawar, physicist and inventor of the vacuum flask, 1923; Leylic Stuart (Thomas Appaisting Barrett). popular composer (of "Lify of La-guard"), 1928: Enoch Arnold Bennett, novelist, 1931; Yur. Alekseyevich Gegaria cosmonant killed in an aircraft accident ions. On this day: Oliver Goldsmith's Vicar of Hukefield was published. I like the US Navy was formed, 1794; Nikita Khrushchev became charman of the Council of Ministers in the Soviet Union, 1958;

a United Nations Peece Force took

over in Cyprus, 1964; severe earth-

quakes and tidal waves were experi-

enced on the US Pacific coast, 1964;

at Tenerite, Canary Islands, a Pan Am

jumbo jet collided on take-off with

show Storfiglu Express was first produced, London, 1984. Today is the Feast Day of St Alkeld or Athilda and Lectures

a KLM jumbo-jet on the runway.

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler.

"Cézanne (iv): Cézanne's portraits", Dormer, "Medieval Altar Pieces

(i)". 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Geoffrey Stuart, "A Painter's View: Van Gogh and his contemporaries", 1pm. British Museum: Nicole Douek "Queen Netertari, Light of Egypt",

1.15pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Dr Kisho Kurekawa, "Japanese Culture and Contemporary Architecture", 6,30pm\_

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Alan Bradley, and the Lady May-oress. Mrs Pamela Batty, were the hosts at the Annual Civic Dinner of the City of Westminster held vesterday evening at the Dorchester Ho-tel, London W1.

way reflected his own country-

Shipwrights' Company Mr David Steel QC was the princi-pal guest and speaker at a dinner held sterday evening by the Worshipful

Company of Shipwinghts at Iron-mongers Hall, Lundon EC2, Mr Ole S. Kverndal, Prime Warden, General Dental Council Lord Woolf of Barnes delivered the Wilfred Fish Lecture for the General

Dental Council yesterday evening at 64 Wimpele St. London W1. His subject was "Self-Regulation: dentists, discipline and defence". Dr Margaret Seward, President, accompanied by Professor Seward, received the guexis.

European-Atlantic Group

Sir David Hannay, former UK Representative to the United Nations. was the speaker at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday evening at St Ermin's Hotel,

London SW1. His subject was "The United Nations". Lord Dahrendorf

Weavers' Company Mr J.G.Y. Radcliffe, Upper Balliff, Worshipful Company of Weavers, presented the company's annual finitile Awards at a ceremony held yesterday at Saddlers' Hall, London

principal guest. Among the awards sented were Young Weaver of the Year, Jody Ingram. Technology Awards. Royal College of Art and Holion Institute of Higher Education, Mercen's Company Medal and Prize, Mr J.R. Corrin, Design Awards. Royal Society of Arts, Reprint, Design Trust, and Royal Cullege of Art. Heritogo Award. Northern Tecnite Muscums Training Project.

EC2. Miss Caroline Charles was the

European Engineers

The following have been awarded the qualification European Engineer by the European Federation of Na-tional Engineering Associations (FEANI).

(FEATUL)

K. Ahmad Kushani, S.S. Anadissaho, C. Anderson, L. Arrosonith, R. Azad, G.A.B. Bailey, S. Batterby, C. Bishep, R. Blake, T. Bintazaynski, A. Blyth, E. Bula, M. Chesiner,

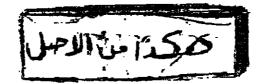
R.J.M. Davies, P.A. Daviest A.F. Dev. P. Ezechte I. Fairley, C. Fairlish, C. Feather, G.G. Ferrer, S.A. Fornest, D. Fosher, D. Garforth, J. Gardall, A.J. Guldfinch; D. Gardordt, J. Gentley, A.J. Goldfinch:
A. Grant, L. Grandy, A. Bardan, N. Hare:
J. Harvey, W.G. Haylaw, P.K. Keult:
C. Kennedy, B. Kristoj, J.P. La Indre Balternam:
L.P. W. Let, J. Lawson, J. Lee, C. K. W. Luk,
A.S. Masse, J. MacCought, M. MacDonald, A.

A.S. Masse, J. MacCought, M. MacDonald, A.

J. MacCought, M. MacDonald, A. J. MacCought, D. Mac

D. Murr. S. J. Branderson.
C. Nisher.
Th. W.C. Osborov, E. T. Liven. C.A. Puckering, C. Prinshonski, J. Ouanne, F. Radmary, B. Roberts, C. Rogere, G. Roberts, C. Rogere, G. Roberts, C. Rogere, G. Roberts, C. Rogere, G. Roberts, C. Rogere, M. Servensour, R.L.A. Sentie, C. Than, R. Roylow, S. Rettow, G. Thomston, J. Taramer, M. Irich. S. Tettow, G. Thomson, J. C., R. Ushenson, D. War, Wilkin, D. Williams, J. W. C. Woods, A. Woods Vright: Y. H. Yate

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen, accompound by The Doke of Edubaryh, paper have Vest in the Carth Republic The Police of Council Mending Association, arches the Council Mending Royal Thanks, Variation SWI, The Duckster Kent President, Marie Curie Ca sends a reception, the Ma Landon ECo.



# The killer protein

A simple protein, rather like those you find in eggs or in the cells of any animal's body, is eating away at Britain's beet industry, away at Britain's beef industry, threatening it with destruction. Known as a prion, this mysterious protein lies behind the unfolding BSE crisis. For it is the "prion" which seems to explain why humans may contract the fatal-brain disease Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CID) as a result of eating food contaminated with mad cow disease, or BSE.

Prions are "rogue" forms of nor-mal proteins. They defy conventional scientific knowledge. We know that they work to terrifying effect on the brain, eating it away and turning it into sponge. What we cannot explain yet is how they

Prions\_act in the place where chemistry and geometry intersect.

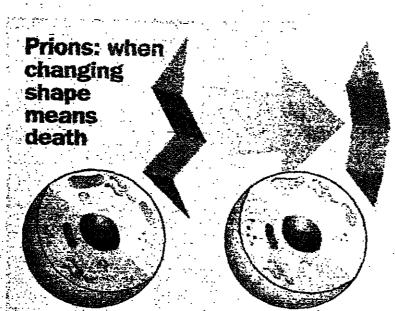
Many scientists now think that CJD and BSE diseases are not triggered by a conventional infection caused by a virus or a bacteria. Instead it seems they are set off by an entirely new infectious mechanism: a protein that abruptly changes shape, like a child's bendy toy, which then sets off a disastrous chain reaction in other cells.

BSE, CJD and scrapie - the form of the disease takes in sheep - differ significantly from the sorts of diseases we learn about at school. Conventional thinking says infectious diseases are caused by bacteria and viruses - living agents with their own genetic instructions encoded in DNA (or its chemical and genetic relative, RNA). They invade a host cell and their genetic material sets that cell to work making copies of the invading cells, which then infect more host cells.

The first step in the discovery of the entirely different infectious mechanism came in 1957, when two scientists studying tribes in Papua New Guinea noted a disease that the natives called know, or "the laughing death". It was a disorder in which loss of co-ordination was rapidly followed by dementia and death. It was spread because the tribespeople indulged in ritual cannibalism. But the scientists' research found no infectious agent to explain the disease. The first clue that something else was at work was a strange sponge-like appearance to the victims' brains.

That same sponge-like appearis found in cov rs unal due oi BSE. Here too the infectious agent is elusive - yet incredibly hardy. You can do a lot to infected tissue samples: douse them in antiseptics, boil them in water, shine ultraviolet light or even high-energy gamma rays on them. Any one of those would destroy a bacterium or a virus. But not BSE, CJD or scrapie. The turning point in the under-

standing of these diseases came in 1972. Stanley Prusiner, a neurologist



The prior is a standard protein that changes shape - apparently spontaneously - and then causes brain degeneration and death.

1) The normal form of the PrP protein exists in the "folded" shape in many cells of the body. its exact function is unknown.

Somehow, the protein "flips" to a stretched form. Because it originates in the body, the defence mechanism of the white blood cells does not break it down. The "flipped" PrP, or prion protein, now begins to affect the normal version in other cells in the body.

3) "Flipped" copies of the PrP protein gather in brain cells, where they cause fibrous deposits - "plaques" - which cause the cells to die and collapse.

 Post-mortem examination shows how the collapsed cells leave the brain with a spongelike appearance, shot through with holes.



How we might catch CID from BSE 1) Meal infected with prioris from a cow with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) is eaten. 2) Prion proteins that cause BSE in cattle are absorbed through the 3) Over a period of time - which may be between 10 and 30 years - the prion protein spreads throughout the body and "encourages" normal copies of the same protein in the body to change shape to the diseased form. 4) Diseased forms of the priori protein begin to gather in the brain and spinal tissues, where they lead to degeneration of the grey matter. Eventually CJD sets in, leading to dementia and death within a year

at the University of California's school of medicine in San Francisco, watched one of his patients die from CJD. Upset, but intrigued, he began reading the scientific literature on CJD and related conditions - which he found electrifying. Finding the infectious agent became his

After setting up a laboratory in 1974, it took Prusiner and his colinvolved in these diseases was unaffected by any process that would destroy DNA or RNA, yet it lost its effect when freated with sub that broke down proteins.

In his first significant publication on the topic, in 1982, he dubbed the agent a "prion" (he pronounces it "pree-on", though most people find "pry-on" easier on the ear), for "proteinaceous infectious particle". His research team subseprion contained only one protein, which they dubbed PrP - for 'prion . protein".

Prusiner's iconoclastic suggestion that something without any genetic element could cause an infectious illness "evoked a good deal of scepticism", he observes. There was also the question of

action of most proteins depends on their physical shape – the way their molecular constituents are folded together. (Why proteins, which start as long, simple chains of amino where PrP came from in the first place. That was answered when sci-taneously fold into the shapes they

Human PrP genes and proteins differ leagues eight years to established two facts: the infectious agent quite substantially from those of cattle,

but not by so much that it rules out BSE passing from cows to humans

hamsters, mice, cats, elk, mink, sheep and humans - have genes that

control the making of PrP. But if we all produce PrP, why doesn't everyone die of CJD? "One quently established that the scrapic interpretation was that we had made a terrible mistake and that PrP had nothing to do with prion diseases," Prusiner said later. But

entists discovered several animals - do remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in modern biology.)

then he recalled that the biological

Prusiner's next step was to suggest that there could be two shapes of PrP: the normal form found in healthy mammals and the diseased. "scrapie" form. This was confirmed by experiments with enzymes called proteases, which break down pro-

teins found in cells as part of the one was unusual. This meant that body's self-regulation. Enzymes are like locks: only the correct shape of protein fits them. Experiments at the University of California showed that "scrapie" PrP resisted being broken down by protease enzymes, while normal healthy PrP did not. Chemically they were the same protein; but geometrically they were different shapes. A build-up of diseased PrP proteins, then, would throw a body's self-regulation out of kilter because

they are immune to enzymes. What Prusiner could not explain mals, such as mice, sheep or cows, was why the "scrapie" PrP had a difterent shape, and more importantly why it seemed able to encourage other proteins to change shape as well. Prusiner decided to investigate other "prion diseases" in humans.

In 1988, he obtained copies of a PrP gene from a man with a disease, known as Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker disease, which resembles CJD. Prusiner's team found a tiny mutation in the man's gene. Out of 750 "instructions" - called base pairs - on the gene's DNA, a single

rules out BSE passing from cows to instead of making the amino acid proline, as a healthy PrP gene would. The key to the way the disease it made one called leucine. That, in

a different shape. As long as your PrP proteins retain the correct shape, you will remain healthy. But even after painstaking research over many years, there were still the twin questions of how the infection was spread and how it worked inside a body. Why could "scrapie PrP" easily infect some aniyet be hard to pass to others, such

as hamsters? Prusiner, with fellow researcher Michael Scott, found that the amino acid sequences of cow and sheep PrP proteins are relatively similar. Prusiner suggests that "the more the sequence of a scrapie PrP molecule resembles the PrP sequence of its host, the more likely it is that the host will acquire prion disease.

turn, meant that the PrP protein was

Human PrP genes and proteins differ quite substantially from those of cattle, but not by so much that it

spreads through the body is the way PRP changes shape and induces other proteins to follow suit. Experiments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have shown that when diseased PrP and normal sheep PrP are mixed in a test tube, the normal form converted to the diseased form. There might then be a cascade effect as more and more proteins change shape.

It is known that they become concentrated in the spinal cord and the brain. This concentration of the diseased protein causes cells to die slowly. The collapse of the cells creates the spongy appearance of the brain in post-mortem.

But how many "diseased" proteins are needed to set off the cascade? How long does it take? Can the "flipped" BSE prion induce the normal human prion to flip? To these vital questions, even the crusading Prusiner does not have the answers, yet.

# into the furnace by the inevitable line

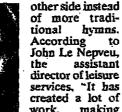
#### Mr Creutzfeldt's big moment

Salah Sa Salah Sa

Word reaches me from a young man particularly distressed by the latest CID scare. While going quietly about his business for the London auctioneers Christie's all week, people keep accosting him to demand if he has something to do with the beef scare. "And then I have to come clean," confesses one Benjamin Creutzfeldt,

"that it was my grandfather who first diagnosed the whole thing." The young Mr Creutzfeldt, long familiar with his grandfather's work, has been so put out by the latest coverage of the disease that he has taken to writing to the papers.

Tm no scientist myself, he con-



According to John Le Nepveu, the assistant director of leisure services, "It has work, set up correctly and so we have had to employ

another technician." The alternative to Kylie (above) is Simply the Best by Tina Turner, although one man decided to be more literal, and was accompanied

created a lot of making sure the tapes are

#### Krays were a bunch of lightweights

from Frank Sinatra's "My Way":

"And so I face the final curtain."

Rifling through old programmes at a party for the 125th birthday of the Royal Albert Hall, I was interested in one long-forgotten event, an Inter-national Boxing Tournament in December 1951. The night was unusual in having three brothers fighting on the same bill, the only time the three did so. One's heart

Joanna would make a fabulous art critic

bas taken to writing to the papers.

"I'm no scientist myself," he concedes. "but the first case my grandfather diagnosed was back in 1913.

And it was a woman aged only 23—which does rather make you wonder why we are reading so much into cases of young people today."

I for one am inclined to be most reassured. Soothing words from a Creutzfeldt himself!

Alas, there is a nasty sting in the tail. "The only thing is," he admits, "she was a butcher's daughter."

The CID scare has brought Benjamin one imexpected benefit. "For the first time in my life, suddenly everyone can spell my name."

With Kylie you can burn in Hull. It is Kylie Minogue's chart-topping single "I Should Be So Lucky".

The local council has been forced to employ an extra technician at the city crematorium to cope with the strain, since the people of Hull are increasingly choosing their favourite pop tunes to accompany them to the



goes out to their opponents. The uvvers were the welterweight Charlie Kray and the lightweights Reggie and Ronnie of the same surname.

Selina Guests at the British Television Advertising Awards

Nice one,

were somewhat startled to hear Selina Scott announce the

winners of the prize for public service advertising.

Many years in front of the camera have still, it seems, not wisened the winsome presenter to the perils of the autocue. Up on her screen came the results - last Christmas's controversial "Dave" anti-drink drive ad, made for the Department of Transport and the COI - the Central Office of

Information.
"And the winner is..." she declared, "CO One!"

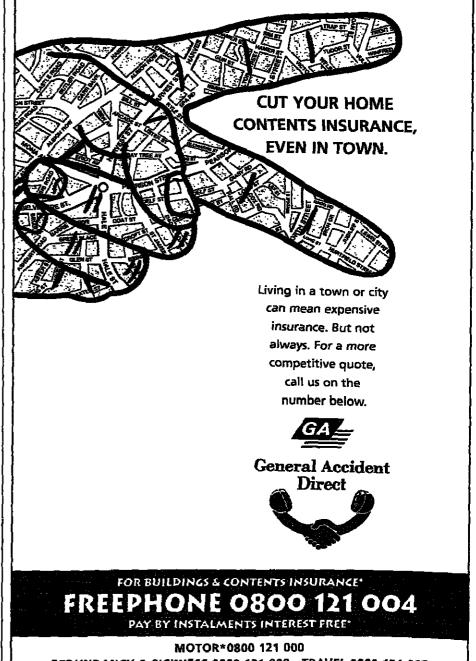
A bemused audience was left marvelling at the audacity of a Department of Transport ad campaign to promote the virtues of carbon

#### Great advert, shame about the facts ...

No advertising award for the hoarding that the Scottish Widows insurance company has put up in Edinburgh.

It boasts that Sir Walter Scott wrote Ivanhoe. True. It adds that he sold books by the million. Also true. It concludes with a flourish that he took out a policy with Scottish Widows. Indeed he did: a policy for £3,000 on 20 December 1824. What it neglects to say is that he went hankrupt two years later.

Eagle Eye



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Punishments to

fit the criminal

tell us more about the way crime is reported and recorded. It also tells us

something about demographic change. As the population ages, so crime should fall because older people get up to less

Fighting crime is not unlike fighting unemployment. There is no single unem-ployment problem but lots of them: the

redundant, older, unskilled manual worker is not in the same position as a

temporarily unemployed, young, skilled worker. There are also many crime prob-

lems: burglaries and vehicle crime demand different responses compared

with violent crimes against women. We do not need blanket solutions for "crime"; we

need a more forensic approach that dis-

tinguishes between offences and wrongdoers and applies to them appropriate

schemes of detection, punishment and

Some of the big sweep schemes in which the Metropolitan Police have led

the way - such as Operation Bumblebee

- seem to have had some success, usually

by heightening public awareness and

strengthening the bond between police

and public on which effective crime fight-

ing depends. Sir Trefor Morris, Her

Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, says closed-circuit television is hav-ing some effect, though it may merely dis-

The fact is, if we locked up a huge pro-

portion of the age group most often implicated in crime, offending would be

cut but civil liberties and the public

finances would also be ruined. In the real

world, policy ought to be targeted at reducing reoffending rates, and exploring

more effective routes to make sure young.

first-time offenders do not return to

crime. These must include a range of non-

custodial training and education regimes

as well as exploring novel forms of pun-

ishment in the community. Tomorrow, Mr

Howard announces a new sentencing

regime that is likely to ignore not just the

objections of judges to straitjacket sen-

tences but the anguish - audible this week

at their conference - of the prison gov-

ernors at the growing strains on the pris-

ons. If he uses these crime figures to jus-

women and children fear to tread-

local authorities is how to fund the renais-

sance of the public park. Imaginative

financial solutions suggested by the report

include joint ventures with health and edu-

cation authorities, and involving the pri-

vate sector through franchising facilities or

backing events. Hence the prospects of the

park being used as a large advertising

hoarding for corporate sponsors. Com-

panies would get the chance to associate

their product with recreation, relaxation.

freedom and natural beauty. And the com-

munity would get the cash to reclaim their

public space. It could be a novel and

healthy combination of the public and the

private and an antidote to the inexorable

That does not mean parks need to rearrange their flower-beds into the

shapes of commercial logos. Private

finance has always been important to pub-

lie space. If a few of today's super-rich

individuals and wealthy companies exer-

cised the generosity and the restraint of

the Victorian philanthropists who built

our big city parks, they could set in train

a revival in mixed-use public spaces that

so many of our cities require.

rise of the private theme park.

But the big question for cash-strapped

place crime into adjacent areas.

prevention.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is his own worst enemy. Yesterday,

he had some moderately good news to impart: the third annual fall in recorded

crime. Yet even as he delivered the news you could see his credibility draining

away. Everyone's natural reaction was to ask; where's the catch? That must be the appropriate response since these new fig-ures, welcome as they are, present such

a mixed picture that they give no endorse-

ment to Mr Howard's dogmatic penal

Detecting and deterring crime is much more complicated than this Home Sec-

retary seems able to admit. Mr Howard seeks to persuade us that crime is governed by straightforward causal relation-

ships. More police on the beat make more

arrests and clear up more crimes. Judges.

constrained by a tougher sentencing

regime laid down by Mr Howard, send

more offenders to prison, where they learn the error of their ways. Crime falls:

The trouble is, it isn't. Making society

safer for law-abiding citizens requires a

joint effort by the public and the police.

local authorities and companies, the

courts and social services. The police are

most effective when they act as a catalyst

for the public doing more for themselves to police society. Prison is only one form

of punishment; we should start to think

more imaginatively about other forms of

punishment that could be delivered in the

ered "notifiable offences". These are

crimes recorded on police station dock-

ets and fed through the statistical mills.

They do not cover much of the crime peo-

ole experience in their homes or on the streets, much of which goes unreported.

Vehicle crime, on official definitions, is

down: so is burglary. Yet most people are unlikely to say they feel safer than they

did three years ago. Worse, in 1995 there were more homicides and a worrying pick-

up in crime on the railways. Muggings rose but sexual offences fell. Yet the figures are no cause for cheer: about 100

women a week reported rapes last year.

Movements in the level of recorded

Weary of the strains of urban life, fed up with the television, frustrated by

how hard it is to replicate Delia's master-

pieces, unable to escape to the countryside,

you turn for a breather to your local park.

Through the great red and yellow M that

adoms the gate, past flower-beds exuding the scent of Body Shop's Dewberry, you

head towards the Coca-Cola fountain to

feed the ducks. Relaxing on an Ikea

painted green wood bench, you watch the

children playing on My Little Pony rock-

ing horses, safe beneath the benevolent eye

of the BSkyB-sponsored closed-circuit

television. Every corner of the park glows

with colour, cleanliness and corporate

try's public spaces hinted at in a new

report for the Department of Environ-

ment published this week. The aim of the

report is to describe for local authorities

the best practice in popular parks across

the country. The case studies and descrip-

tions of successful projects to make parks

safe and pleasant places for every mem-

ber of the local community are extremely

welcome. Too many green spaces have

deteriorated into deserted wasteland.

threaded by dangerous walkways where

Such could be the future of the coun-

sponsored wellbeing.

crime may not tell us a great deal about tify his policies Mr Howard's political which policies are most effective. It may incredibility will be visible to all.

Bringing parks to life

The figures published vesterday cov-

simple as that.

never own up to having it!

13. All right, let's calm down a bit,

shall we? 14. It has been established now, I think, that BSE was caused by the consequences of those days, is that not

15. And the Government can claim that it was not to blame because it left the rendering industry to regulate

said the Government has always acted 17. And the farmers were not to

industry and didn't know what was in

19. So can we expect a lot of lawsuits being taken out against the feed industry by farmers driven to the

has the feed industry been busy shredding its own evidence of complicity in

22. Thus cleverly getting the incrim-23. But how do we know that mad

serious – affected a small propor-tion of students. The problems were short-lived: they were fully resolved by 15 January 1995. any scares about mad sheep disease? 21. Why has there never been a lamb crisis, even though there was Around 93 per cent of students

22. When you heard of British Airways' decision to ban British beef from in-flight meals, did you think to ourself: 'As it's impossible to tell one kind of meat from another in airline

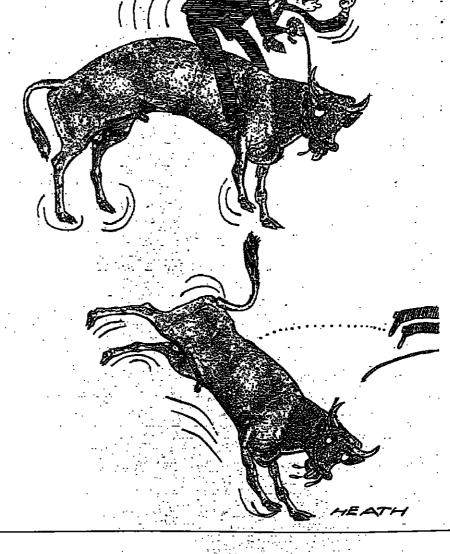
banning anything particular."

23. When you last picked up a jar of Boyril, did you wonder if there was such a thing as mad beef drink disease? 24. Have you stopped saying things

and "beefing things up"?
25. Do you attribute Ian Botham's recent failure to get into cricketing

admin to his nickname of "Beefy"? 26. The next time someone brings up the question of why dinosaurs vanished from the earth, will it suddenly occur to you: "Of course - Mad Dinosaur Disease!"?

All the answers to everything can be obtained from Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for the National



#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Beef: 'meat products' may be infected, but only a few people will ever get CJD

Sir: Here are the answers to the questions about BSE/CJD which you posed on the front page on Saturday 23 March.

1. One bite of infective (brain) material might be enough to transmit the disease because it is dose-related but that is unlikely. In any case, most individuals will never develop CJD since only those of a rare genotype are sus-2. Recent research on BSE

suggests that beef liver is unsafe. 3. There is no evidence that the 'red meat" of BSE-infected animals is any less wholesome than that of Scrapic-infected sheep, whose meat we have been swallowing with impunity since 1730. It is the "meat products" (pâtés, meat pies, stock cubes and tinned items of "beef" such as consommé and stew) to which brains have been - and calves' brains still are - added which contain

4. Farmers no doubt watch their pigs but all subclinically infected animals appear quite healthy for vears.

5. All poultry appear to be immune. The SEAC researchers are playing safe in barring all mammalian meat from all farm

6. This is not going to be what everybody understands by an epidemic : we are not dealing with typhoid or tuberculosis or cholera in which everybody undiscriminately gets contaminated. This unique organism causes dis-ease in only a few individuals those who are genetically susceptible. That's why CJD, in spite of being an infection, is so rare.

H C GRANT, MD, FRCP (Neuropathologist) Edinburgh

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone

number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk)

Sir: Professor Woodland's letter on Scrapie/BSE (23 March) states that "pasture remains infective for some years after [scrapie infected]

sheep are removed."

This leads me to ponder why the disposal of BSE infected carthere is no such compensation casses is permissible in laudfill sites (not all are incinerated) which are not unknown for their production of polluted effluents?

Incidentally, how efficacious

are the incinerators employed for carcass destruction and what competent authority spot checks them for their performance in completely destroying tissues, flesh and bones, so that only sterile ash remains? This stricture also applies to open pit burning, which cannot guarantee com-

plete destruction A further complicating factor is that abattoir wastes can be spread on or in agricultural land (as "soil improvers"). This may be cheap waste disposal but where are the guarantees of environmental and biological safety from these procedures? Deregulation can be carried too far, and insecure disposal of any biologically active animal wastes or

> Professor of Environmental Engineering The Open University Milton Keynes

Sir: The English Channel is a wonderful thing. In spite of hundreds of thousands of British cattle passing over the Channel over the past ten years, there is apparently no problem with BSE in France and elsewhere. What

complete nonsense.

We are now faced with major countries in the EU abandoning the UK to the potential economic catastrophe of mass cattle incineration while hypothetically ignoring the widespread unreported problem in France, Ger-

many and elsewhere. The difference is that in the UK we fully compensate any farmer for a BSE victim (which is then destroyed) thereby encouraging the farmer to be

there is no such compensation and hence if a farmer is at all concerned about an animal, his best

duction is safer and that the con-sumer is better protected with UK products. PIERS FEILDEN Martock, Somerset

option is to send it to the abat-

toir. Under these circumstances,

one could argue that British pro-

Sir: Following reports in the Lancet of CJD in British teenagers (October 1995) I wrote to my son's headmaster suggesting that a non-beef alternative be always available. It is to the credit of Clifton College that they adopted this proposal at once. I now discover, to my horror, that pork sausages can legally contain up to 20 per cent beef, and that ingredient labelling is not required by law, so those parents who have been enlightened enough to ignore government remains is the last thing we need. reassurances on BSE now find Professor A PORTEOUS that they have been misled by inadequate controls on the

labelling of food products. Dr ROBIN RUSSELL IONES Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire

Sir: In Cornwall we had clear night skies over the weekend, enabling us to see the approaching comet Hyukatake with the naked eve; it was a fine sight. Comets were always viewed as bringers of disaster, and this one's arrival has coincided almost to the day with the BSE scare.

Newquay, Cornwall Sir. The Government encourages us both to disregard the low risk of contracting CID and to

N J LENNON

accept the low chance of winning the Lottery. ROBERT PIGACHE

Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Student loan

delays sorted out

Sir: The Student Loans Company

has acknowledged and apolo-gised for the problems which resulted from the introduction of

a revised application procedure

for loans in the autumn of 1994. Your report (22 March) fails to

put these problems into perspec-

tive. The delays - whilst undeniably

who applied for a loan in academic

year 1994/95 had their applications

The difficulties have now been

fully overcome, following the intro-

duction of an improved proce-dure for 1995/96. This followed the

internal review to which you refer.

Student Loans Company Ltd Glasgow

Sir: Your revelation (26 March)

that the CIA supported violent

opposition groups within Iraq

echoes previous evidence of US

support for Iranian rebels who

have targeted civilians. Will John

Major now condemn the US as

he berated Iran last week after far

GLEN RANGWALA

Trinity College Cambridge

more tenuous allegations?

US terrorism

COLIN WARD, Chief Executive

dealt with in a timely fashion.

#### Churches fight social evils

I have visited 26 cities in the last two years and can report that the churches are heavily engaged in helping the casualties of our rapidly deteriorating society.

Everywhere I've been the

Church Urban Fund, set up foi-lowing Sir Richard O'Brien's Faith in the City report, is doing great work; but today we are also creating networks across the denominations, in which the new Community churches play a leading part, full of Christian love and enthusiasm and often more generous with funds and people than older churches.

For all this there is broad support. Two years ago I made the case for the city networks at seminars in seven of the five-day Spring-Harvest/Word Alive con-

Since then 11 cities have started networks and most of the rest are following, pooling our knowledge and experience across the country in dealing with teenagers, drug addiction, battered wives, single mothers, debt, and helping the demotivated young to find jobs. I think that my predecessor, the great Earl of Shaftesbury, would have moral code which values honesty approved.

Sir Fred Catherwood President The Evangelical Alliance

Sir: Christian Socialism, you imply (leading article, 22 March), is doomed. Methodism, and Church attendance, is on the decline and the broad tradition into which Tony Blair has tapped

Sir. Your obituary of civic Chrishas "no social basis". Yet in the tianity (22 March) is premature. last two months nearly 2,000 new members have joined the Christian Socialist Movement. You allude to the old adage that the Labour Party owes more to Methodism than to Marx, yet the first Christian Socialists were Anglicans, not Methodists, and Roman Catholics in Britain, from Cardinal Manning and John Wheatley through to today, have been vital in outlining the parameters of a "civic Christianity".

Today, though many of the churches seem to have little energy for anything other than internal wrangles – it was worry-ing that not a single bishop-chose to express a public view on the Scott report's criticisms of goverument practice - the number of Christian Socialists involved in public life is as high as ever. The political agenda for Christians of whatever denomination is clear at the moment: rescuing politics from the slough into which it has fallen, making education and the pursuit of truth a national passion among other things, homeless and addressing the despair of grinding anemployment, homelessness, inequality and poverty at

> As you rightly say, this depends on the acceptance of a basic and integrity and calls things "right" and "wrong". Otherwise we are left with Nigel Lawson's nihilistic dismissal: "There is London SE11 nothing left to socialism but the moral high ground". There is a clear task for those who believe that politics is a moral endeavour. CHRIS BRYANT

The Christian Socialist Movement London N1

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14 July 1

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#### English Heritage to the rescue

Sir: I am most grateful to Anna Pavord for highlighting the plight of Downe Hall, Bridport (23 a late stage. March).

In the past few days a knight in shining armour has been sighted on the horizon in the unlikely guise of English Her-itage, previously part of the noth-ing-doing/do-nothing brigade. English Heritage, until last

week deaf to all our appeals, has now reversed its policy towards Downe Hall and is starting to work out how to preserve the house and its gardens. It gives fresh hope to us all when a

and flexibility to change policy at Let us hope that at the local

level West Dorset District Council can show a similar responsiveness and that perhaps some Heritage Lottery money could help preserve intact for future generations this elegant house

CAROLINE SANDWICH (the Countess of Sandwich) Chairman Dorset Gardens Trust Beaminster,

#### Feeling good with | Irish kept Greek fewer people

Sir: Why should a falling population after the year 2020 give the chancellor of the day a "feel-bad problem?" ("Feel-bad factor predicted as population falls", 22 March). A slowly falling popula-tion would naturally lead to a disappearing housing shortage and falling costs, together with falling unemployment, reduced conges-tion, reduced pollution, and a falling import bill. The pressures of intensive farming on food quality and wildlife could more easily be reduced. It would become possible to stop gobbling up countryside in urban "development", and much more.

Most of these are benefits in any terms. Some appear as negatives only in the false accounting of conventional economics, which measures all exchange of money as a "good", even if the "good" is the medical care of road accident victims, or scraping oil off beaches. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY

Green Party Population Policy Working Group Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

## classics alive

Sir: If further examples are needed to convince those who continue to believe the Irish were a backward people, I suggest they read Johannes Sconis, John the Scot. (In the minth century "Scotus" means Irishman).

The excllence of his translation work was remarked upon by Anastasius, the librarian of Pope Nicholas, in 860, who was astonished that a man from a remote and barbarous country could have possessed such a profound knowledge of

Greek. Throughout what we call the "dark ages" there is evidence that the knowledge of Greek and the Latin classics was kept alive by the Irish.

"During the latter part of the seventh century, it was in Ireland that the thirst for knowledge was keenest, and the work of teaching was most actively carried on" (M R James).

7-4-

# Who's this Jakob, and where's the Beefy?

How much do you know about beef by now? Here's a small test,

just to find out How well have you been following the debate on the beef crisis in the last few days?

a) Well:

b) Well, quite well: c) Well. I'm a dairy farmer from Somerset and I don't believe there is a beef crisis, only a beef panic, and I've never had any BSE in my herd. well. I have, but I didn't tell anyone.

and what I say is this ... 2. How many of you have been misreading the headlines and thought there was an EU ban on British beer, and that JCD probably stood for John Courage Disaster"?

3. What are the main symptoms of a) An increasing inability to follow

Stephen Dorrell's arguments: b) A tendency to believe that there is a town in Germany called Beefburg. c) A horrible feeling that the more you learn about beef the less you

4. How convinced are you of the link between BSE and Jakob Creutzfeld Disease?

5. Who was this Jakob Creutzfeld. 6. Why do people with German

ionable diseases, like Alzheimer's? 7. And if Jakob Creutzfeld was German, doesn't this mean that he almost certainly discovered the disease in Germany?

8. Which means that they must have BSE over there as well! 9. But they haven't been telling us about that, have they?

10. Oh, no - they haven't let on that they have got BSÉ over on the Continent as well, have they? 11. But then they wouldn't, would

12. It's always us poor Brits who follow the regulations and get caught, isn't it, not the continentals who don't even test for BSE and if they do,

names get to discover all the most fash-feed provided by the rendering

processes of the feed industry, which minced up diseased sheep to feed to cows, and that although this has now been stopped, we are living with the

16. (And, besides, the Scott report

in good faith, did it not?) blame because they accepted the feed in good faith from the rendering

18. Therefore, it must have been the feed industry which was to blame?

verge of bankruptcy? 20. And just in case this happens,

21. And converting these shredded documents into cattle feed? inating evidence destroyed by the very animals it is accused of having affected?

cow disease might not be caused by

eating evidence of mad cow disease? 20. Oh. and by the way, if mad cow disease was originally caused by contamination from diseased sheep with scrapie, how come there have never been

mad sheep disease? Eh?

meals, I don't really see the point of

like "yours, till the cows come home"

# Why the state can't fix the family

Pushing single mothers into having their babies adopted is no solution to unplanned pregnancy

The Government wants to encourpositive and beneficial outcome for age more single mothers to give their babies up for adoption. What a good idea!

Some 38,000 teenage girls and 50,000 non-cohabiting single women give birth every year at a cost to the state of £9bn in social security. Most single mothers are destined to life in the worst flats in the worst estates, without child care or a chance to work, their children's chances blighted from the start. (It is odd how the Government focuses on the inadequacies of single mothers when fathers are the ones who cause most of the trouble in problem families. When pressed on this point, they hasten to say that they mean any unplanned child with less than ideal parents.)

Meanwhile, thousands of childless couples queue in vain to adopt. Simple. Call in the social engineers, and it shouldn't take much spannerwork to solve these two problems with one short, sharp wrench.

Tomorrow, the Department of Health publishes a draft Bill on adoption, together with a consultation document. Its officials could not frame a legal clause that would persuade unmarried mothers to give away their babies - in the old days it was done by shame and family threats. So instead, a circular has just been issued to local authorities and adoption agencies by the department, an authoritative missive just short of legislation.

The circular instructs social workers to promote adoption as a positively good solution instead of a last resort. Adoption continues to be an important service for children, offering a many. ... For many children it will be clear to social workers at an early stage that adoption is the only practical long-term solution likely to meet their particular needs."

Leaving aside low thoughts about the public exchequer, what ideas lie behind this eulogy for adoption? John Bowis, the Health minister, explains: "We are trying to promote adoption as an acceptable and valid alternative to abortion and the burden of bringing up an unwanted child."

The idea was first widely mooted in the United States by Newt Gingrich and stolen, like so many, by John Redwood. Now, watered down, it has trickled into this new adoption legislation. How odd that the right's infatuation with genetic determinism (the poor are poor because they are genetically inferior), exemplified in the recent influential book The Bell Curve, allows them to admit that changing a child's environment will change its destiny a liberal creed if ever there was one.

Encouraging adoption sits strangely in the right-wing canon since it involves state intervention in the most private of matters. The right, often correctly, thinks that the state is very bad at many things, such as running gas and electricity industries or managing housing estates. When it comes to taking responsibility for vulnerable children, it has scarcely improved since the days of Oliver Twist. Of the 51,000 children in its "care", 75 per cent will leave with no qualifications, one in seven girls will leave care pregnant or already with a baby, while 26 per cent of the prison population are care graduates. Hardly



Adopted children lived with a dangerous dream of a lost, better family

a record to suggest that the state should intervene in a whole lot more families in order to do them similar good. Of course, adoption is not the same:

wborn babies nestled into carefully selected families do not suffer that fate. Some 21 per cent of adoptions do fail but mainly among children adopted at older ages. However, many more adopted children do develop behavioural problems, earning them disproportionate referrals to child guidance clinics. As adults, half of all adopted women and 30 per cent of men set off in search of their natural mothers, feeling that some part of themselves is missing.

In a book called Lost Children, I interviewed a great many adopted people who described a deep sense of dislocation. They spoke of looking in the mirror and wondering if anyone

better family and a perfect mother.

As for the wretched mothers forced by poverty and disgrace to part with their babies, the anguish lasts forever. They talk of gazing at everyone in the street of the right age, trying to recognise the child they abandoned.

Those are the very good reasons why the Government is wrong to promote adoption except in extremis. Yet a nagging doubt remains. When you see hopeless cycles of deprivation repeating themselves over and over again, why not take that child gently from the arms of madequate parents, married or not, and rescue it from following in their footsteps? Even if that adopted child does grow up full of regrets, isn't that outweighed by the undoubted benefits? The child is automatically moved up the social ladder, brought up in a well-heeled family, to be well educated with every prospect of a good life

ahead, so isn't that better? Against that view is history. Such social engineering has led to untold misery, though it often looked like common sense at the time. Dr Barnardo's and the Government sent battalions of poor children abroad as "apprentices" to a "better life" in Canada and Australia, where they ended up as inden-tured servants. The mass evacuation of very young children in the war, without their mothers, "for their own good" is now regarded as a brutal error. Gov-

ernments get these things wrong.

The Children Act planted in the law the idea that a child's interests are always paramount. But it turns out to be an ideal impossible to grasp, let

else anywhere looked like them. They alone implement. Looking at most lived with a dangerous dream of a lost. court decisions, it is apparent that we court decisions, it is apparent that we still regard children as the possessions of their biological parents. We do not know how else to treat parents' loud claims of ownership. This month, the Court of Appeal sent a 10-year-old Zulu boy who had lived in Maida Vale for four years back to his natural parents - to live in unaccustomed poverty, with no chance of an education despite his passionate wish to stay in London with the only family he has ever known. His parents' demands for his return overruled all his own wishes,

> courts everywhere. In the end, the argument against the Government's desire to take more children from their parents is not the emotional or Freudian one that says a baby is always better off at the breast of its biological mother. That is often selfevidently sentimental nonsense, since a great many parents are monstrous.

and it happens time and again in

No, the reason why state-promoted adoption makes no sense is this. There are limits to what government can and should attempt to do. To step in and seize babies from undestrable, though not dangerous parents is beyond the remit of government and suggests that the state is responsible for ensuring that every child gets equal and optimal parenting.
Should government take the blame

for every human failing, even for fate inself? Where would this quasi-eugenic thinking ever end? How oddly it sits in the spectrum of modern right-wing individualist ideas, when it so plainly belongs to the realms of socialism, or even national socialism.

up unwanted food if it falls below a cer-

tain price - will come into play. But

intervention in beef is now much more

limited than it used to be (partly, and

quite rightly so, at British insistence). Standard EU subsidies will not save the

beef industry from ruin and certainly

Some great propitiatory bonfire of older British cattle - however unsci-

entific - now seems to be demanded

as the price of rebuilding consumer confidence. The Cabinet is balking at

such a step because of the great cost

involved (£1bn at the very minimum).

This may, in turn, be because Brussels

sloshing around in the Common

Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget,

It is a misconception

Why? There is plenty of money

is reluctant to pay part of the bill.

will not restore its good name.

# Could he be the auntie-pope?

Andrew Brown reviews the Archbishop of Canterbury's five turbulent years in office

Tomorrow is the fifth armiversary of the confirmation of the election of Dr George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury. This is an almost meaningless formality which comes between the moment when the new Archbishop is actually chosen by the Prime Minister and his ceremonial enthronement weeks later. Still, Dr Carey thought it significant enough to use as a peg for a sermon this weekend: a proper regard for the dignities of this office is one of his most notable characteristics.

The first five years of his primacy have been extraordinarily challenging. The ordination of women has led to the loss of about 300 priests to Rome, and the emergence of Forward in Faith, a well-organised and vigorously led inner opposition which hopes to lead perhaps three times as many over eventually, after the Church of England has broken up - a development its leaders think inevitable. The Church Commissioners had lost most of the £800m they blew on property speculation before he became primate, but the scandal emerged in his primacy and the consequences remain for him to deal with:

Dr Carey has introduced a newly aggressive and confident note into the discussion of church numbers, but the fact remains that an optimist in this context is one who is certain the long decline has finally bottomed out. The "decade of evangelism", launched with great excitement the year he took office, has fizzled out amid the grotesque embarrassments of the Nine O'Clock Service cult in Sheffield. The remainder of his term in office - and he could go on for another 10 years - holds the prospect of formal disestablishment, which will, humiliatingly, come as part of a wider constitutional reform and all the fun of the royal

Most of these matters are outside the control of any archbishop. But Dr Carey has brought his own style to all of them. From the moment five years ago, even before the for-mal confirmation of his election, when he said that some opponents of women priests "were ilty of a very grave heresy", until his pronouncement that the Dumblane massacre showed the importance of absolute standards of right and wrong, he has been easy to characterise as loud, confident and wrong.

divorce and remarriage.

This made a welcome change body quiet, diffident and lem, or his fault

wrong. But it has not helped him to be taken seriously except by committed followers. He told the United Nations he was a world spiritual leader, but this is not quite the same as being accepted as one. He has rushed around the world to Armenia, Bosnia China and Sudan, quite undeterred by any local absence of Auglicans: the effect is not sinister, like an antipope, but slightly grotesque,

like an auntie pope.

Providentially, Dr Carey has the energy to make millions of mistakes and recover. He writes his own speeches, works very long hours and still keeps time for a programme of earnest reading. He is an effective dri-

He has the energy to make millions of mistakes and recover

ver of committees, and adept and determined at getting things done.

Perhaps the secret both of his success and of his limitations is found in a phrase used in the preface to the report of the Timbull Commission, which is his blueprint for reforming the central structures of the Church of England. There he is called "vicar to the nation", a title that seems to have been invented for the occasion. It fits. His model of authority is that of the admired vicar of a growing congregation, as he once was in Durham. He still treats the wider church as if it were his congregation. His sermons and lectures are meant to provide a programme of teachmg. He expects quite normal people to accord him authority, because he is Archbishop.

This may provoke patronising shudders among Catholics and secular intellectuals. It may also be just what is needed, as he leads the Church into still more difficult times. For if disestablishment comes, he has been there already. Dr. Carey is the first Archbishop of Canterbury for centuries who not only was born outside the Establishment (on a council estate in Barking) but has never really been inside it. He has a deep understanding of the qualities that churches need to succeed in a hostile marketolace. If these turn out to be inimical to, or even incompatible with, the qualities that once from the previous stereotype of made the Church of England the Church of England as a loved, well, that is not his prob-

# BSE: big chance for Brussels

The European Union should use the beef crisis to win support in Britain, writes John Lichfield

BSE is infectious; it promotes an infectious incaution among politicians, officials and the media. The hysteria has now spread to Britain's relations with Europe, a sick relation if ever there was one. The European Commissioner for Agriculture, Franz Fischler, has exceeded his personal authority (but not the Commission's) in announcing a worldwide ban on Sritish beef exports.

Informed commentators in this country profess surprise that the European Union has a right to regulate our trade with non-EU countries. How surprising that they should be surprised. This was something we surrendered not at Maastricht, not in the Single European Act, but when we joined the then EEC in 1973.

We have a right not just to be quarantined but to be helped towards recovery

The real issues of Europe and BSE lie elsewhere. There are at least three. First. Mr Fischler had no right to impose the ban, using his own authority or even that of the 14 senior vets from other member states who met in Brussels on Monday. The decision should properly have gone to today's meeting of the full Commission.

The second issue is whether there is sufficient medical evidence for such a ban. The whole scientific argument has become so obfuscated that it is impossible for a layman - or even a specialist - to give a sensible answer. Brussels was reacting not scientifically but politically. Most of the big beef-importing countries, such as the United States, banned our beef long ago. All EU countries save two have unilaterally followed suit in recent days. The worldwide ban - if confirmed - is there to distinguish between British and non-British beef. Its real aim is to shore up confidence in the global beef exports of other EU countries.

The third issue - and the most important - is what else Brussels plans to do. Agriculture, rightly or wrongly, is another policy area largely surrendered by member states to Brussels. There is a serious, potentially crippling, sickness in Europe's agri-cultural family. Even if the sickness is partly of our own making, we have a right, as members of the family, not just to be quarantined but to be helped towards recovery.

As things stand, the BSE row looks likely to spoil the launch in Turin on

The U-turn by Gordon's over the provision of free gin for the launch of Carol Thatcher's biography

of her father, Sir Denis Thatcher, has

Sir Denis would conjure up the ante-

diluvian image of the gin drinker as a

crotchety old buffer who likes his gin

neat and pink. Gordon's gin is search-

ing for the youthful image Cinzano and

Bacardi have enjoyed. An overt asso-

ciation with Sir Denis "would take us

back to the dark ages", said Gordon's.

Thankfully, common sense has pre-



Emergency measure: a customs official at Boulogne inspects British livestock

obsessed Thatcher government in the late 1980s to fence off the infection from the human food chain. It may be true, as British farmers say. that there is also a BSE problem lurk-ing on the Continent. But many of the

right to be angry with the British government than does London with the EU. For six years or more, the Euro-pean Commission and the other member states have fought a rearguard action to keep the Continental market open for British beef. All other leading importers - including our American and Australian friends and cousins - banned our meat at the slightest suspicion of a problem. The commission swallowed, and defended, the British line that a) BSE was not transferable to humans and b) every-

vent meat sold for human consumption from being exposed to the disease. On the first point, scientists and the British government have changed their minds. On the second point, sub-

thing possible had been done to pre-

Friday of the rolling Inter-Govern-

mental Conference on the future

shape of the EU. The Turin summit

was hardly shaping up to be a con-spicuous success. One row, it seems, will blend scarnlessly into the other.

But such an outcome is not inevitable.

In all honesty, the EU has more

little was done by the deregulation-

proven cases - including those found Brittany this week - are traceable to British sources, largely because Brussels fought to protect the cross-Chan-nel trade in live animals. Mr Fischler also complains that, even when the new scientific evidence began to emerge. Whitehall kept Brussels in the dark.

There is undoubtedly some Euro-schudenfreude here. Britain loves to lecture its partners on its scrupulous observation of the European rules and the superiority of our national standards to some Continental standards (take a bow, Michael Portillo). There is an element of grim delight in finding such a stick to beat Britain with in the Turin summit week of all weeks.

This is human nature. But Europe if it is serious about persuading Britain to join the club in spirit as well stantial evidence has emerged that too as in form - is in danger of missing an

important trick. BSE is shaping up as the greatest British political crisis for many years: a crisis of confidence in the whole apparatus of government. This should be an opportunity to suggest to the British people that mem-bership of a Europewide union provides comfort and solidarity, not just

free trade and red passports.

The EU could help by subjecting the British government's latest scientific analysis and safeguards (ie, the claim that British beef is now safe) to a rigorous independent investigation. the results of which should be made public. That, in essence, is what Mr Fischler proposes. If he is then able to recommend a lifting of the embargo, he might have done more to restore international and domestic confidence in British beef than a simple, unquestioning acceptance of the word of

THIS government. But we should expect more from Brussels. At some point, if UK beef prices continue to fall, our farmers will eligible automatically for EU aid. What remains of the notorious intervention system - the guarantee to buy

that Brussels can simply dole out money to farmers in trouble isn't there? No. and also yes. It is a misconception that Brussels

can simply dole out money to farmers in trouble. There has to be an agreed policy; there have to be available funds. The total amount available for animal lisease eradication throughout Europe this year is £53m. The entire £31bn CAP budget for 1996 is under some pressure. It does transpire, however, that Brussels expects CAP reforms and high world food prices to produce an enormous potential surplus - maybe

£3bn - in the farm budget over the next three years. Arguments are already raging about the ownership of this cash. Brussels wants to spend some of it on large transport projects; Britain wants to give it back to the taxpavers (ie, to put the UK share towards its n tax cut and re-election fund). Europe - not just Britain - faces an acricultural crisis. A special programme

should be drawn up to help farmers to get rid of all European cattle over a certain age that could possibly have been exposed to BSE. Brussels should use the creative accountancy for which it is famous to borrow the needed funds from the CAP surpluses expected in

Yes, Britain and British farmers would benefit most. But we have paid faithfully into the CAP for 23 years, mostly for the benefit of Continental and Irish farmers. Instead of exchanging insults in Turin, the European Commission, Britain and its EU partners should seize this opportunity by

it. Will the guests be more likely to choose that product above others in

future? Will they buy the author's

book? As the screenwriter William

# We have chosen our way of life. Surely we can choose our way of death? 79% of people in this country believe that it

should be legal for those incurably ill and in severe distress to be allowed to request 2. peaceful, dignified end to their suffering. Our law does not agree: so the agony continues.

If you support voluntary cuthanasia, the best way to achieve a change in the law is to join the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. Do it today.

Join the Voluntary Enthanasia Society and you will receive a free Advance Directive, which enables you to specify your wish not to be subjected to unwanted medical intervention if incurably ill.

Please make me a member of VES and keep me informed out the campaign. I enclose £10 annual subscription (Joint membership £15).

Voluntary Euthanasia Society For Dignity in Dying VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA SOCIETY, 13 PRINCE OF WALES TERRACE, LONDON W8 5PG. TELEPHONE: 0171-937 7770.

#### Hospitality on the rocks Carol Thatcher wants free drink. Christopher Silvester sympathises

proved faster and more effective in damage-limitation terms than the Government's efforts to assuage fears vailed. Sponsorship of Carol's and Sir about beef. Yesterday, a few hours Denis's party is hardly likely to jeopafter its refusal became public, the ardise the company's image. But why Company announced that it would be should authors be forced to suffer the happy to sponsor the party after all. humiliation of having to seek sponsor-The reason for Gordon's initial refusal was its worry that the name of

ship for their launches? Once upon a time, publishers were generous party hosis. A party to launch a book was the expectation of every non-fiction author, an engine of promotion that would generate a huzz. Now we have publishing conglomerates, dump-bins, discounting and sponsored launch parties. A publisher will make a contribution

towards the cost of a party and will handle such burdens as the printing of invitations, but beyond that it is up to the author to find a sure-footed path through the enterprise culture.

Almost three years ago, I held a launch party for my anthology The Penguin Book of Interviews, to which I blithely invited 900 guests, My publisher weighed in with its widow's mite contribution of £250 and I managed to attract sponsors whose products would stimulate the most jaded of partygoing ralates. We found a hotel that was willing to give over its dining room for the

evening at cost price and persuaded a camera company to act as the underwriting sponsor (paying for the hotel's staff costs and loss of dining trade). Then I found a large drinks company to provide an array of underexposed brands - a vodka, a malt whisky, a red wine, a range of soft-drink mixers. The

final element in the line-up was an energetic new cheese supplier. The benefits a drinks company will derive from sponsoring a publisher's launch are intangible. Equally intan-gible is what kind of benefit the author and publisher will derive from

Goldman once observed about the film business, "Nobody knows." If Carol had wanted to guarantee sponsorship for her party, she should have approached a less familiar brand of gin. As it is, she and Sir Denis have been lucky that United Distillers felt embarrassed by the leaking of an insulting memorandum. But the

whole episode has served to achieve that quintessential goal for any sponsor or author: to raise one's profile. As I've contributed to the process

too, in my own humble way, I'm looking forward to receiving my invitation to the bash from Harper-Collins's publicity department. Mine's a large one.

# CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

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# BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098 Former Mercury chief heads for Granada TV

and MATHEW HORSMAN

Granada, the media and leisure giant, will next week announce the appointment of Duncan Lewis, former nead of Mercury Communications, as the chief executive of its television operations. It will be the first time that a senior telecoms executive has run a major broadcasting group in the UK.

Confirmation of the appointment, expected next Tuesunveiling of a new management structure for Granada's televi-

both Granada and London Weekend ITV companies. that position, becomes group chairman, succeeding Alex Granada would not com-

ment on the restructuring, but confirmed it would be addressing the staff of its television operations next week. "We have no comment to

make on internal or external candidates," Charles Allen. Granada's chief operating officer, said last night. Mr Lewis was unavailable for comment

Mr Allen will become chairday, will coincide with the man of the television side next week when he takes over as group chief executive, Gerry Robinson, who currently holds

Bernstein, who is retiring. Mr Lewis will report directly to Mr Allen, and in turn be responsible for the operating execu-tives at Granada, LWT and the company's new cable and satel-

A new name for the television operations will also be unveiled next Tuesday Mr Lewis, 45, left Mercury

abruptly last September, after only nine months in the job. His departure shocked the City and the industry, as he had been credited with turning the telecoms company around. Mr Lewis was believed to have clashed with James Ross, then chief executive of Mercury's parent, Cable & Wireless, over the strategic direction of the group. It is thought that C&W had required Mr Lewis not to work in the telecoms industry for some months after he left.

Mr Lewis was also on the short list to become chief executive of Cable & Wireless after Mr Ross left in November. C&W was plunged into turmoil by a row between Mr Ross and Lord Young, then chairman, who also left the group. A successor for Mr Ross has yet to

Granada, which earlier this year clinched a £3.8bn hostile bid for Forte, the hotels and restaurants group, is eager to underline its long-term commitment to television. Some analysis have suggested the Forte bid marked a shift away from the television and consumer equipment rentals interests which traditionally were the

company's core. The appointment of a telecoms executive underlines Granada's conviction that the communications and entertainment businesses are set for further convergence, following advances in technology.

Operating profits by activity (£m)

The Sterling years: Running out of steam

P&O share price relative to the market (rebased)

satellite and cable services in the UK, the Government intends to encourage the development of digital terrestrial television and even video-ondemand services, offered via telephone and cable lines into homes and offices.

Many media analysts believe films and big sporting events. could be soon be delivered by telephone on a pay-per-view basis, a prospect viewed as crucial to the long-term strategy of BT.

Successful programme makers such as Granada are also expected to benefit from changes livered to the consumer. Mr Lewis's appointment may

also be viewed as astute in the light of his experience running a company in competition with mant market player, in the form of BT Granada has been eager to expand into cable and satellite entertainment services, a market currently dominated by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB. Hedging its bets, Granada

with BSkyB to launch five satellite channels, including a Granada Gold, dedicated to broadcasting hits from Granada's programme library.



Moving in: Duncan Lewis

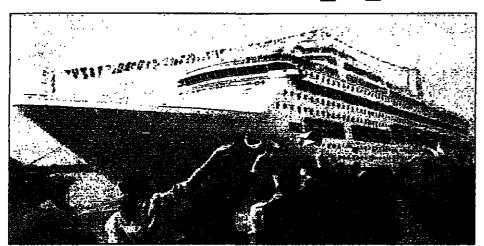
# Sterling woos the City with P&O shake-up plan

Lord Sterling launched a charm offensive in the City yesterday and won immediate approval from analysts for his plans to reverse the recent underperformance of P&O, the cruises. ferries and transport conglomerate he has headed since 1983.

He confirmed widely leaked plans to spin off Bovis Homes. the group's housebuilding arm. in a flotation next year. Other £500m of sales from P&O's £2bn property portfolio and a reduction in the group's exposure to bulk shipping.
Those steps underpinned

P&O's dividend, which was maintained in 1995 at 30.5p. Fears about the company's ability to continue that level of payout had been the prime cause of a dramatic underperformance of the market by P&O's shares in recent years, making it at times the highest yielding stock in the FT-SE 100 index of leading companies.

Lord Sterling responded to recent criticism of P&O's performance by leading fund managers by saving: "We are single minded in our commitment to with the Government over getting back to a higher return on capital employed and in the meantime making strategic asset disposals where appropriate.



Cruising ahead: Lord Sterling denied rumours that P&O was interested in Cunard's fleet

Full-year pre-tax profits of

to achieve enhanced shareholder value."

Announcing better than expected full-year results, Lord Sterling poured cold water on rumours that P&O is poised to swoop on Cunard, the cruise business owned by Trafalgar House. He is understood to believe that cash is better invested in new ships than in Cunard's increasingly tired fleet.

He upped the ante, however, in his acrimonious stand-off whether or not further consolidation should be allowed in the overcrowded cross-channel

the company that it would not move on its rivals. An attempt to strike a deal with Stena Sealink is expected later this year to shore up the ferries' defence against the threat now posed by the Channel Tunnel.

£320.4m compared badly with 1994's £349.5m but were at the top end of analysts expectations. Combined with the restructuring plans they resulted in a 8p rise in the share price to 522p, well down on the high of 732p achieved at the beginning of 1994 but an improvement on the low reached at the end of last ferry market. P&O is keen to re-year before whispers of an im-I am confident that what I have verse undertakings made 20 minent shake-up at the comannounced today will enable us years ago by his predecessors at pany underpinned the price.

Analysts welcomed the new openness from P&O after years of poor relative performance and an unwillingness to discuss group strategy with the City. UBS analyst Richard Hannah said he would be upgrading his 1996 pre-tax profit forecast to around £350m from his previ-ous estimate of £340m and others followed suit.

One said: "The moves announced today are a good starting point for a rerating of P&O but it still can't change overnight from being an underperformer to an outperformer.

Nine of P&O's 11 divisions actually bettered their 1994 profits last year but their ag- Sterling claimed would secure gregate improvement was not the dividend at current levels for

enough to offset heavy falls at least the next three years as from the ferries business, which was hit hard by the Channel Tunnel, and container shipping, where deregulation around the world has increased competition. Profits from P&O Ferries

tumbled from £113.9m to £74.8m, while containers slipped from £63.2m to £40.9m. Cruises had a strong year, rising from £100.1m to £110.7m and, but for the one-off cost of the division's Star Princess liner being grounded, profits would have risen by more than 20 per cent.

At the heart of P&O's presentation to shareholders was a cash flow projection that Lord

well as ongoing capital expenditure requirements. Cash needs of about £665m, according to the model, will be more flotation of Bovis and the probable exit from bulk shipping.

P&O's business plan is dependent on a return to the company's historic return on capital employed, which at 11.2 per cent in 1995 was well down on the average over the past 10 years of nearly 14 per cent. That programme will receive a boost from the flotation of Bovis Homes, which generates a low-

Comment, page 21

# Jobless figures are a 'fiddle on ... a grand scale'

DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

Britain's headline unemployment figures are "a fiddle on an orchestral scale", according to the chairman of the House of Commons employment com-mittee. In a majority report released yesterday, the committee said a monthly survey-based measure recommended by official statisticians would be an improvement on the present count of the number claiming unemoloyment benefit each month. Greville Janner, the Labour

chairman of the committee. said: "The figures are fiddled not because they are in themselves inaccurate but because you fiddle figures by selecting which ones to produce." Numerous administrative changes in unemployment benefit meant the public had lost confidence in the claimant count as a measure of unemployment, he said.

The report goes further, arguing that neither the headline claimant count nor the alternative Labour Force Survey measure included all the people who wanted full-time jobs and could not find them. The committee therefore recommended publication of a range of other unemployment figures which could include discourwork. The widest of these would take the unemployment total to 4.8 million. The report, which adds to the

ressure on Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to adopt a new unemployment measure, was opposed by four Conservative committee members. But one Tory - Sir Ralph Howell, who recently joined Labour's Frank Field in backing a Right to Work "work-fare" bill - voted in favour. Tim Yeo, one of the Conser-

vative opponents, said: "People who claim that actual unemployment is much higher than 2.3 million are unable to substantiate it." He agreed, however, that it would be helpful to give more prominence to the Labour Force Survey measure, currently available quarterly.

tistical Office working party. The CSO's study was itself a response to a damning inquiry into the adequacy of the 2 claimant count measure by the independent Royal Statistical Society last summer. The Chancellor is due to de-

cide whether to opt for a monthly LFS figure, at an additional annual cost of £7m to £8m, after consultation on the

# Share shops offer Disney trips in Railtrack float

#### Raiftrack offer

#### published 15 April

- Share offer to be launched ın May, payable in ınstalmer At least 30 per cent of
- shares reserved for private :nvestors Special incentives for
- those who register and take up offer Shares offered through 110 banks, building societies and brokers

#### Business Editor

Trips to Euro Disney, a holiday in the Canadian Rockies, tickets for Eurostar trains and discount vouchers for the Orient Express are being offered by some of the share shops handling the £1.8bn privatisation of Railtrack.

The promotions are by City Deal, DealWise, the Share Centre. Norwich & Peterborough Building Society and YorkShare.

the prize draws and other special offers were the most extensive so far for a privatisation.

The £5m television and press advertising campaign kicked off last night as the Government released more details of the marketing campaign for the sale of the entire British track infra-

The offer in the first half of May is to be paid in two instal-ments, with the second due after April 1997. This means that in-Though they are only a small proportion of the 110 share shops involved, advisers said of PEPs, increasing their total vestors will be able to spread their

benefits. Railtrack's advisers decided against offering travel perks because only 5 per cent of the population uses the railways regularly and a lot of those are commuters with season tickets.

But there will be a discount for private investors of between 5 and 10 per cent of the price of the first instalment, and a minimum investment likely to be about £500. Bonus shares or a discount on the second instalment are also expected - but only for retail investors who register with share shops. The marketing campaign is aimed mainly

at investors with some experience of privatisation issues.

The government is to mail 5 million households using a list built up from past offers, but this is a far lower number than in some of the earlier privatisations such as British Gas, where the marketing campaign cost

£40m in today's money. Government advisers claim that every pound spent is more productive than in the 1980s because much of the basic public an extensive roadshow for education about share buying was done in the earlier privatisations, especially the "Tell Sid"

campaign for British Gas. There will be special arrangements for Railtrack employees and

The Government refused to go beyond its promise of selling at least 51 per cent but it is widely expected to go the whole

hog and sell all the shares. The prospectus, on 15 April will give an expected price publication will be followed by professional investors by Railtrack executives.

# Pet Plan founder negotiates sale to Swiss insurer

#### RUSSELL HOTTEN

Patsy Bloom, millionaire founder of the Pet Plan animal insurance company, is negotiating to sell the business to Churchill, part of the Swiss insurer Winterthur.

It was unclear whether the former UK businesswoman of the year, who started the firm with just £500, wanted to sell all or part of the company. But her colleague and co-

founder, chairman David Simpson, yesterday confirmed that talks were at an advanced stage. We think a deal would bene-STOCK MARKETS

ladices

saving any more at this point,"

put £250 each into the project in 1977, and have grown Pet Plan into an international company with a turnover of more than £32m and 200 employees.

street insurers, is facing pressure on margins as competition hots up, particularly in the motor insurance market. The firm is thought keen to diversify into other areas, though it would only confirm yesterday that taiks were under way.

Ms Bloom and Mr Simpson

Churchill, like many high

Ms Bloom, 55, thought to live alone with her Yorkshire terrier in London, had the idea for a pets insurer after her animal fell ill and she faced large veterinary costs. A former advertising executive, she once said that although she knew nothing about insurance, she knew how

to sell an idea.

Ms Bloom and Mr Simpson are the only shareholders in Pet Plan and they stand to increase their wealth substantially if the business, which made profits of £1.2m last year, is sold. Pet Plan is now the UK's

insurer of horses. But the company only has an estimated 400,000 policies. With about 6.5m dogs and 5.3m cats in 12m UK households, there is a potential huge market for an insurance company like Churchill to aim at.

Other large insurers are al-ready getting in on the act and Premium Search, the direct insurance company, recently launched a policy which it

pany with about 42 per cent of the market, and it is the leading and about £60 for dogs. The and about £60 for dogs. The premiums are normally to cover vets fees, though some policies pay out for boarding and even lost animals.

Pet Plan has paid out on dogs that nearly drowned, a cat that swallowed a cassette tape, and another that are a frog and got mouth ulcers.

For a dog with a broken leg

a policy pays around £500, against £1,000 for a human. And a pacemaker for a dog is only



Pet Plan's turnover of £32m

# about £500, compared to more claimed was cheaper than Pet than £5.000 for a man or The cost of insuring a cat INTEREST RATES

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THE PARTY NAMED IN

# P&O's promises will not hold off snipers for long

offensive launched yesterday by Lord Sterling that investors studiously ignored the apparent lack of substance in his proposals to restore P&O's fortunes. They focused in-COMMENT stead on the fact that the company's saving grace, one of the FT-SE 100's highest divi-'As a long-term dend yields at 7.3 per cent, looks assured for the foreseeable future and the shares nudged strategy, selling a

It is hard to escape the view, however, that it will take more than yesterday's promisespromises to persuade the City to rerate the shares. As a long term strategy, selling a size-able chunk of the group's £2bn property portfolio to pay the dividend is hardly credble even if, in the short term, it avoids the

ignominy of cutting the payout.

Floating off Bovis Homes, while it gets rid of one of the most cash-hungry parts of the empire and conveniently sidelines a division with one of the lowest returns in the group, is also hardly a great strategic leap forward. Arguably in the run up to a widely expected housing recovery, P&O should be holding on to Bovis.

on to Bovis.

The group's problem is not that its spread of transport, shipping and property businesses are unusually badly run but that they operate in a range of lousy markets. During the 1980s Lord Sterling was bailed out by inflation, as he had been during the 1970s, with relentlessly rising property values pro-

nesses. It is possible to argue that continuing the political equivalent, by leaving the date ing to invest throughout the recession was the right long term strategy, misunderstood by the chest sighted Circ but with a sight of the sale price, but it is affecting the headline total. Independent may knock a little off the sale price, but it experts, official statisticians and MPs are in will not stop the flotation. by the short-sighted City, but with the real estate cash tap firmly shut it was never going to be a sustainable policy.

One of Lord Sterling's favourite charts at the moment shows how since he took the helm in 1983 the total return on P&O's shares broadly matched that of the market until little more than a year ago. That says something about the importance of dividend income to total investment performance. and rather more about the ability of statistics to tell any story you want them to.

As the chart on the opposite page shows.

another way of looking at the same data is that P&O's shares, having outperformed the market by a huge amount in Lord Sterling's first two honeymoon years in charge, have steadily undershot ever since. Yesterday's proposals will hold the snipers off for a while but, with a plausible break-up value in excess of £7 a share, it will take something more substantive than this to see off P&O's critics for good.

#### Labour will not stop Railtrack flotation

Most stock market pundits are a spine-less lot. Even those prepared to foreviding the cash to invest heavily in the cap-ital intensive cruise liner and ferries busi-on it. The Labour Party may be about to try cast the index tend to avoid putting a date

days the party is planning to release a policy statement to be incorporated in the Rail-

track prospectus next month. The indications are that the wording will be tough, satisfying John Prescott, the hawk-ish deputy leader, but leaving the timing so vague that Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, will be be able to dismiss the financial costs, thus reassuring the City

about Labour's fiscal orthodoxy. Labour will repeat its previous statement that Britain needs a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway, implying it will bring Railtrack back under public control, at some undefined date. It is also likely to propose abolition of the £2bn a year government subsidy to the 25 passenger train operating companies, and a re-routing of the money directly to Railtrack.

This is obviously going to be difficult, given the tight contracts under which train operating franchises have been sold. However, it might be possible. If track access charges are reduced by the amount the operating com-panies receive in subsidy, the financial effect would be neutral. But why bother? While subsidising Railtrack rather than the operating companies might give the Government more control over the network, it is hard to see what other benefits there would be. I ition. Labour policy will probably be dressed up

#### These unemployment figures are a sham

To describe the unemployment statistics as a "fiddle on an orchestral scale", as Greville Janner, chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee did yesterday, is certainly a good line. His report on the same was, however, a rather more limp affair than the one produced by civil servants.

The committee held back from calling decisively for a monthly unemployment number based on the Labour Force Survey. The Central Statistical Office made its own view rather clearer with a working paper recommending collecting the figures on this internationally accepted definition at an extra cost of £7-8m a year.

The Chancellor has now been told by three separate bodies that the headline figure, which measures the number of benefit claimants, is widely regarded as a sham, since it understates - probably quite substantially - those actually unemployed and seeking work. It is an easy figure for the Government to collect but it has been undermined by the many changes in defin-

The new Job Seckers' Allowance in April with lots of cautious words about consulta- will be the latest in a long line of changes

#### The lavish rewards of failure

When it comes to lavishly rewarding fail-ure, the Dutch masters of Barings have managed to suppress their deep Calvinist austerity. By any measure, the financial package agreed with Andrew "Teflon" Tuckey is

It may be paltry compared with the rich rewards that he once believed were rightfully his. But this is the man who presided, as deputy chairman, over one of the most specdeputy chairman, over one of the most aper-tacular collapses the City has known. The Securities and Futures Authority, holding to strict legal procedures, cleared Tuckey of direct involvement in the management débacle that allowed the Barings disaster to happen. But there was no hiding their feel-ing that natural justice had not been seen to

Now this. "Retirement" at 52 with a pension of £120,000 a year; a £110,000 annual fee as a consultant, and the usual share of profits as bonus. Such are the rewards of failure. Ministers don't resign these days, so why should investment banking captains go down with their ship? But rest assured, ING Barings says his role has been substantially scaled down. Oh well, that's all right then.

# Vodafone sales hit as Orange heads for market debut

**MARY FAGAN** Industrial Correspondent

Vodafone's level of net new subscribers has slumped to about 100,000 in the first quarter of the year from 180,000 in the same period in 1995. Numbers at Cellnet are also thought to have suffered as both companies feel the increasing competition. from Orange, whose shares begin trading on the stock market today at an expected top of the

range price of 205p. Vodafone has yet to publish figures for the quarter, but industry sources believe the market leader took on about 30,000

net new customers in both January and February and is expecting around 45,000 for March.

March pick-up is partly due to Vodafone's new range of con-sumer-oriented tariffs, which follow Orange's lead in offering a certain number of "free" call minutes for a given monthly charge. The company is also planning a major advertising and marketing campaign to fend off the threat from Orange and the other relative newcomer, One-2-One.

According to one City analyst, "Once Orange had built their

#### fact that the market is not There is a view that the growing as fast as it once was." The slowdown was particularly marked in December,

when the mobile market fell sharply from the record levels in December 1994. The drag on growth in the approach to Christmas marred the overall performance for 1995, which was the best year so far for the

quasi-national network it was al-

ways going to start taking more

market share. There is also the

Cellnet is also thought to have suffered in the first part of this year from a very high level of people leaving its network. Many of these signed one-year contracts during the boom around the end of 1994 and are now free to break away.

The Orange flotation, in which 25 per cent of the company's shares are being sold, is likely to value the company at £2.45bn. The two existing shareholders, Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong and British Aerospace, will own 50.49 per cent and 22.92 per cent follow-

ing the sale. Instituttional investors have

There is a view in the City that up to half the shares available to institutional investors could go to those in the US. The UK is expected to get the lion's

The exact pricing and details of the allocations are due to be announced this morning, with dealings in the shares starting at 2.30pm. Some City analysts



Hamleys, owner of the famous London toy shop, has shrugged aside terrorist attacks in the capital and is seeing sales run ahead of last year. But chairman Howard Dye warned that the impact of the return of terrorism was difficult to predict as he un-

veiled a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.38m for the year to January. Sales rose 10 per cent in the Regent Street

• The trend of rapidly rising directors' pay continued yesterday with a 78 per cent increase for Stephen Maran, chief executive of Lloyds Abbey Life. He received £372,000, including a £124,000 performance bonus, compared with total earnings of £209,000 in 1994. This excludes pension contributions, which also rose from

 Consumer confidence in the US declined a fraction in March, according to the monthly survey by the Conference Board. The index fell to 97.7 from 98 in February. Consumers remained apprehensive about jobs, despite the creation of 705,000 new jobs in February. The Conference Board said consumer attitudes were

Richard Branson's Virgin Group has confirmed that it is considering a return to the music business just four years after selling its original label to Thorn EML A spokesman said Mr Branson had "spoken to a number of people in the industry" and decided to look more closely at it. A decision will be taken over the next six months. Virgin has already recruited Jeremy Pearce, managing director of Sony's European music licensing division. When Virgin sold its label to Thorn it signed a 35-month no-competition clause, which has now lapsed.

Charter, the railway ties to welding products group, is ready to spend between £100m and £500m to add a new leg to the business. Jeffrey Herbert, chief executive, said it had looked at around 20 businesses over the past 12 months, two or three seriously, but none had met its criteria. Any new business must be industrial, have an international presence and lead the market in its sector. Charter said. A "corporate orphan, unloved and unwanted ... lurking at the bottom of a massive Euro-conglomerate" would be ideal. Charter reported all its businesses were on target in the first two months of the year, as it announced that the acquisition of Esab in 1994 had sent profits soaring to £97.5m last year.

Investment column, page 22

· Inchcape's insurance broker, Bain Hogg, is in negotiations with its 40 per cent-owned associate. Cecar of France, with a view to merging the two companies' non-domestic European business instore, while concessions in House of Fraser | terests. The merged operations are likely to be run as a 50:50 joint stores were up 38 per cent. A final dividend of 5.4p raises the total 16 per cent to 8.1p. venture, adding that the new company's first start-up operation could possible be in Germany, where neither has a presence.

#### 'Free' call offers lead to tangle of charges

Consumer groups have been in-creasingly concerned about the £100 for 540 free minutes with plethora of complex charging packages available from different mobile operators and the difficulty experienced by many customers in making the right choice for their needs, writes Mary Fagan.

The issue has been highlighted by the decision by Orange to complain to the Advertising Standards Authority over advertisements by Cellnet which the small operator regards as misleading

Orange pioneered the concent of "free" minutes bundled with a given monthly charge but Cellnet and Vodafone are now taking a similar approach with digital consumer packages. Orange's charges start at £15 per month including 15 minutes "free" airtime. Beyond that, customers pay 25p per minute at peak times or 125p off-peak, although the bill is calculated on and then charges of 20p per although the bill is calculated on and then charges of 20p per expect the price to jump to a per second basis. At the top minute peak and 10p off-peak. around £2.50 on opening.

**Economics Editor** 

The shortfall on the balance of

payments more than trebled last

year due to a disappointing performance in "invisible"

trade, Doubled UK payments to

other calls charged at 14p per minute peak and 7p off-peak.

Vodafone's new packages for digital consumers start with a monthly fee of £22.50 including 50 minutes of "free" calls. Thereafter the charges are 30p per minute peak and 10p off-peak but calculated on a per-second basis. At the top end, the monthly fee of £37.50 includes 100 bundled minutes. Calls are then 20p per minute peak and 10p off-peak. based on per-second billing. Cellnet will also adopt per-sec-

and billing for digital customers from April and will introduce new tariff packages. They start with a monthly deal under which customers pay £7.50 but are then entitled to £12.50 worth of calls. They then pay 30p a minute peak and 10p off-peak. At the top end the monthly fee is £12.50

subscribed for more than nine times the number of shares available and 30,000 small investors have applied for shares. There is likely to be some scaling back in allocations to private investors although this may be limited as Orange is thought to be keen to have customers also owning shares.

share of the balance.

# Halifax sees future in savings

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Britain's largest building society. Halifax, said its future lies in savings rather than mortgages, as it vesterday reported a 13 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.1bn.

Pointing to Monday's £800m purchase of Clerical Medical. the life insurance mutual, as a key pointer to Halifax's strategic development, Jon Foulds, chairman, said: "The ageing population, the diminishing welare state, the distillusionment with housing and the switch from physical to financial assets mean that savings is above all where our future lies."

He said Halifax, which is to convert to a bank next year, will concentrate on using its franchise in the mortgage market to build up personal savings. "This will be the fastest growing side of the business". At present, like all building societies, mortgagerelated business accounts for around 95 per cent of Halifax's

earnings.
The 1995 results were earned against a housing market characterised by weak demand and intense competition among lenders. Although Halifax maintained its position as Britain's largest lender with 19 per cent of net new business. this appeared to be slightly below its usual share.

Mr Foulds said there is in- er fall in base rates will help creasing evidence of steady improvement in the housing market. The Halifax house price index has risen for seven successive months, and is expected to continue in March.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said: "We are seeing the first year-on-year positive numbers and the reports from the estate agents are significantly improved. It is too soon to be throwing our caps in the air, but the signs are encouraging."

Mr Foulds was scentical about the usefulness of further interest rate cuts for the housing market. Mortgages are al-ready at historically such low

Halifax said it was taking a
£113m charge for costs associ-

much. At best it would have a marginal effect." Halifax, which merged with

Leeds Building Society in August last year, said its members will vote on conversion in early 1997, probably February. If approved flotation will be by the summer. Mr Foulds said this lengthy

process ensured that as many qualifying members as possible would have been with the society for over two years to benefit most from the free shares distribution. There would be some 9 million shareholders.

levels that I don't think anoth- ated with the Leeds merger.

#### Electricity firms row over costs

The electricity industry is heading for another row over the introduction of domestic competition in 1998, and about who will pay the cost of the computers and other systems needed to allow orderly trading to take place, writes Mary Fagan.

The regional electricity companies believe the total bill could be £700m to £300m instead of the £50m suggested by the regulator. Offer, and are concerned that shareholders should not bear the brunt of the

East Midlands Electricity has complained to Offer, calling for clarification of the situation and how the costs will be recouped. It is thought that the regional companies agreed at a meeting on Monday to pay £50m, clawing it back from customers only once the benefits of competition have been established. However, East Midlands argues that the sum will cover only the costs of changes in the electricity trading pool and fails to recognise the impact on the individual companies.

The company pointed out yesterday that Ofgas, the gas watchdog, put the cost of in-troducing competition in gas at £180m and that this is a much

A senior executive of one company also warned that there could be chaos in 1998 unless Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of Offer, as-

that the economy grew by a-modest 0.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1995 but showed that the balance of spending power shifted from companies to the evidence. personal sector. The savings rate returned to its highest level since

the EU helped account for the weaker invisibles figure. deficit for nearly three years. However, inward direct in-"There is a big transfer of vestment - and investments by money from the corporate sector to persons," said Leo Doyle, an economist at Kleinwort Ben-UK companies overseas - set new records last year. Foreign son. "It is concentrated on the direct investment reached wealth holders. If you are one f19hn, including acquisitions of UK companies. British direct inof the lucky ones with shares vestment overseas was £24bn. and Tessas, you will be starting Separate figures confirmed to spend."

mid-1993, while the company

sector suffered its first financial

He pointed to the rapid growth in spending on big ticket consumer durables - up 1.8 per cent in the fourth quarter - as

"The switch from corporates to persons suggests scope for higher consumption growth this year," said Kevin Darlington, an economist at brokers Hoare Govert. Financial markets have begun to focus on the caution about interest rates being expressed by economists.

A majority of the Treasury's panel of "wise people" think there is little scope for further cuts. Yesterday, Goldman Sachs economists, headed by "wise

man" Gavyn Davies, said their leading indicator of inflation had risen for the fourth month

Trade gap trebles but inward investment soars to record

running.

The balance of payments was in the red by £6.7bn last year, up from £2.1bn in 1994, although it narrowed slightly to £1.8bn in the final quarter. Vis-ible trade was £11.6bn in deficit in 1995, slightly worse than the previous year.

The big deterioration was in the surplus on invisibles such as investment income and services. It fell from £8.8bn to £4.9bn. Earlier figures were revised substantially for the worse. The most important reason

once going against the UK. It took the net British contribution to the EU from £2.1bn in 1994 to £4.2bn last year. There was also a sharp deterioration in banks' net earnings on their overseas transactions.

was a rise in payments to the EU

in December, with the end-year

adjustment of payments for

UK banks' payments overseas increased by more than £10bn to £43.9bn, while their receipts were up nearly £7bn at £39.7bn. Total net UK investment income fell to £6.6bn from £9.3bn. Trade in services improved,

however. The surplus climbed by nearly fibn to £5.7bn. al-

though it slipped by £200m to
£1.3bn in the final quarter.

Sumer spending in the final quarter was revised down to 0.5 from 0.7 per cent Analysts were not alarmed by the disappointing balance of

payments figures because EU transfers can be very erratic. However, some were concerned about the beef scare. Adam Cole at James Capel said it could add £1.5bn to this year's shortfall. The full national accounts released yesterday did not sub-

stantially change earlier estimates of growth last year. GDP grew 0.5 per cent in the cent higher than a year earlier. earlier estimate of 0.1 per cent.

per cent from 0.7 per cent while income growth was higher than expected. This took the savings rate up to 10.5 per cent. On the other hand, company profits growth slowed to a yearon-year rate of only 3.5 per cent. Combined with a sharp rise in dividends, the company sector went £624m into the red.

The GDP deflator - the widest measure of prices in the economy - is now estimated to have risen by 0.5 per cent in the final quarter, to a level 2.0 per final quarter, compared with an

#### sumes direct responsibility for driving the project. "In gas the Government and the regulator took the reins. In electricity no one owns the project - no one Car insurance over £300? Call Admiral now

Saddened: lan Lang wants

# Lang takes Germans to task on single market

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

lan Lang, President of the Board Trade, yesterday chose a directives and to play a full day when Britain was under part in making the single marsiege from Europe over beef to ket effective. attack Germany's record in implementing the single market. man federal system gave rise to Speaking to the German-difficulty, "but it is up to capi-British chamber of commerce in London, he said it was puzzling plementing treaty obligations." that Germany was second to bot-

tom in putting single market directives into national law. He urged the Germans to speed up compliance with

He had heard that the Gertals to take responsibility for im-

Mr Lang also attacked Ger-

of ministers to vote against EU rules requiring notification when imports of goods from other member states were refused. The rules were eventually agreed despite German opposition. He had been saddened by

Germany's decision. "I know the German government was worried that the system would be difficult to operate, particularly in Ger- of technical standards, which has

many's decision in the council many's federal structure. Nev- led to protests from the De- eas where I would hope for imenheless we want to ensure that it does work well. It is for business's benefit. If members observed the

treaty and the case law of the European Court of Justice there should be few notifications, he Mr Lang also criticised Ger-

many for its failure to observe EU policy of mutual recognition

partment of Trade and Industry in a number of cases. The DTI said examples were UK exports of gas analysing and measuring equipment and of tyre pressure gauges, where the Germans had insisted on compliance with their own domestic standards.

"It is trade and shared trading conditions that cement the partnership between the member states. But there are also ar- ropean Union, " he said.

proved co-operation. No member state had a perfect record, but Denmark has put 99 per cent of single market

"Making the single market work as effectively as possible has to be a joint as well as an individual effort; just as bad reg-ulation has to be fought domestically as well as in the Eu-

directives into its own law.



# Taylor Woodrow swims against construction tide THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

about the strength of their international operations offsetting weakness at home. Taylor Woodrow is unusual, however, in generating more from work outside the UK than inside. In the last year that geographical spread paid off handsomely.

In the 12 months to December £46m. largely thanks to 1994's oneoff profit from the sale of Eurotunnel units and an exceptional hit this rime, which we already knew about. to cover the cost of restructuring the UK construction arm. At the underlying operating level, however, returns were 17 per cent higher as all areas except home-grown contract-

ing improved. Running against the prevailing tide in the industry, Taylor Woodrow has stuck by its federation of businesses, a grouping of activities which at first sight seems to make little sense. Why, for example, should the company continue to run a trad-ing operation, peddling among oth-er things janitorial supplies and video equipment, when its real ex-pertise lies in property development, housebuilding and private finance construction work?

No one will complain, however, about the 32 per cent jump in profits from the Greenham trading arm from £4.7m to £6.2m. Sales were up

pansion continued and the return on net assets employed of only £28.5m would be the envy of many.

It is a better performance than con-

struction, which despite substantial increases in overseas activity only managed to break even before the one-off costs of redundancies anprofits actually fell, from £50.8m to nounced at the half-way stage. Tayfor Woodrow has real expertise in world, but it is little better than its peers at converting that into profits.

In housing, however, the wide spread of activities in Canada, Cal- alysts pushed their forecasts beifornia, Florida and Australia was a

**Five-Year record** 

was an impressive performance. Taylor's shares have been among private finance work around the the sector's best performers so far this Charter on year, bouncing from a low of 100p

an 8 per cent rise on the day as an-

Taylor Woodrow : at a glance

Market value: £575m, share price 149p

1.39 1.25 1.15 1.15 1.15

48.1 -93.7 30.2 50.8 46.0

Earnings per share (pence) -12.8 -22.3 4.1 7.8 7.5

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 Share price

real boon the context of a still-stag- form. On that basis, the shares done everything they said they would. nant market at home. An increase in stand on a prospective price/earnings Rigorous management has helped lift housing profits from £21m to £23.4m ratio of about 15. After a good run, like-for-like profits at Esab by 22 per the shares are about right.

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

# last November to yesterday's 149p. track with Esab end of 1994 are stripped out.

tween 10 and 15 per cent higher to Jeff Herbert, chief executive of Charter, has a problem on his hands. His group and Pandrol railtrack fasten-1994 deal to buy Esab, the world's ings, have not been neglected. Cape f £74.6m in 1995, its first full year division by 56 per cent.

But the big question for Mr Herbert and his team is how to maintain with the group it now dominates.

in 1994, when there was also a change of year end, but the Swedish £97.5m in the latest 12 months from

Mr Herbert and his team have areas and a push into the Far East

cent and underlying margins have grown 2 percentage points, when the windfall benefits from a bonanza in Brazilian sales of welding rods at the

Meanwhile, Charter's remaining businesses, mainly the separately quoted Cape building insulation ings, have not been neglected. Cape biggest welding products group, was has done well to shrug off the UK's just too successful. Bought at the bottom of the cycle, that acquisition was perfectly timed. For an outlay of around into the black at the US track around into the black at the US track £445m, including debt, the business maintenance operation helped push chipped in extremely healthy profits up returns from the rail equipment of £74.0m in 1995, its first full year division by 56 per cent.

the 12 months to December was mag-nified by Esab's partial contribution growth meant volumes rose between 8 and 15 per cent in Esab's businesses, pushing margins through the group clearly had a large impact. 10 per cent target. The harder task Group pre-tax profits soared to will be to hold that level through the cycle, as hoped. Further cost cutting, shifting more production to low cost

recession, admittedly some way off. A bigger hurdle for Mr Herbert will be to repeat Esab. With gearing cut

to an impressive 17 per cent from 91 per cent in 1994, he is ready to spend anywhere between £100m and £500m. Similar targets are being sought among European conglomerates but the market waited for Esab and Mr

. Herbert is not about to be rushed. In the meantime, profits of £108m this year would put the shares, up 14p to 893p, on a forward p/e of 12.

#### **Iceland** needs new direction

It is becoming increasingly clear that Iceland, the frozen food retailer, is in need of a new direction. Its role as a "top up" shop in the cut-throat supermarket sector just isn't providing the returns.

Hence last year's failed bid to buy the Littlewoods stores, which indicated a lack of confidence in the

existing business. Chief executive Malcolm Walker confirmed those suspicions yesterday when he hinted that although no acquisitions are on the horizon he would still like to do a deal.

side here. The shares trade on a heavily discounted price/earnings ratio of 10 but there is still no interest. If the share price does drift up from its current 155p to around 170p they are likely to be hit by heavy

All this is hard on the management, which is doing all the right things but running to stand still.

The dismal 3.5 per cent fall in likefor-like sales in the first nine weeks of the second half has been reversed and comparative sales have risen by 2 per cent in the 17 weeks since Jan-

uary. Margins have also improved.
Iceland is also reining back its store opening programme and will now open 40 new stores during the year. This compares with a recent annual average of 50.

Last year's results were decent in a difficult market. Pre-tax profits in the year to December were 3.4 per cent higher at £72.6m. Sales were flat

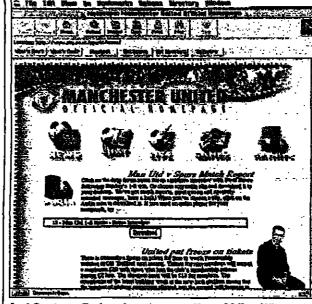
With £34m net cash, a share buy back is possible but this is unlikely to excite the market. Analysis have trimmed their profit forecasts for the current year to around £76m.

With sluggish earnings growth prospects and price competition in the supermarket sector set to put would still like to do a deal. more pressure on margins, the The problem is that the market shares have few attractions.

#### CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

## United's anoraks find the back of the Internet



And Cantona finds cyberspace up the middle: What a site – Manchester United's screen image

Manchester United has the 17th most popular web site on the whole of the Internet. Success on the pitch and in the City has now been followed by success in cyber-space. Announcing half-year results yeserday United said that since launching its own site on the World Wide Web last December (ask an anorak what this bit means) it has had more than a million

Apparently the site itself is vast, with loads of detail about players, plans for the club and so on. It also has a "Chat Forum" for fans to communicate through, which has clocked up more than 7,000 messages. One company, Internet Direct, is so impressed that United has been nominated for its "Yell Awards" for "Best site on the Internet." Talk about planting the ball in the back of the net. If you're a fan and have nothing better to do with your life, here's the address; http:// www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu

Peter Hyde, the head of UK research at Kleinwort Benson, has been poached by BZW to head its transport team. Mr Hyde was the topranked analyst in the Extel survey in 1993 over all sectors, and also won accolades as an analyst in the water sector from 1989 to 1995. BZW trilled yesterday: "We're de-lighted. It's a feather in our

Since Mr Hyde will be swapping the central location of Kleinwort's Fenchurch Street offices for BZW's new ones miles away in Canary Wharf, Mr Hyde must have

been paid an even heftier transfer fee than usual.

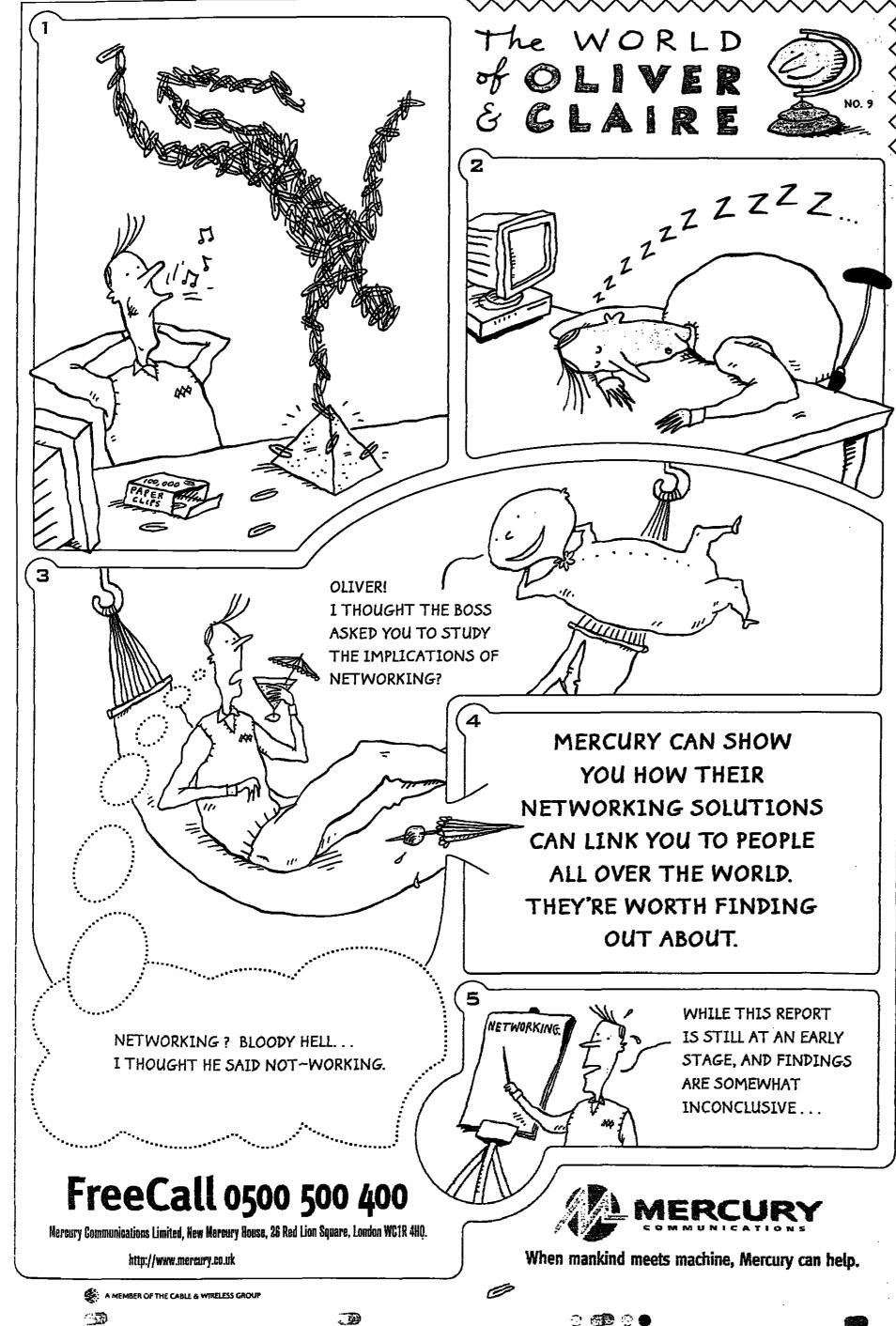
Sir Nicholas Goodison, the

former chairman of TSB and now deputy chairman of the Lloyds TSB Group, is not happy about the future of the modern art collection built up by the TSB before it was gobbled up by the black horse. Sir Nicholas fully accepts that the pictures and sculpture from more than 40 young British artists must move from the TSB's old head office at 60 Lombard Street, which will close once the merger is completed. But he is determined not to move the collection just along the road to 71 Lombard Street, Lloyds Bank's head office because of the ghastly yellow lino-like floor covering which predominates on the fourth floor, where the top executives hang out

There's no way of getting rid of the yellow stuff either.It's got a preservation order on it; something about "art deco."

Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, was at a dinner party given by Barry sociation, a number of years ago. Mr Dyke was talking to a young man who had just been elected as a Labour MP, and asked him why he had wanted to go into Parliament. "To make a difference," was the gist of the man's reply. Mr Dyke then declared: The Labour Party needs people like you like it needs a ... The young man, of course, was Tony Blair.

COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
Tornover £	Pre-lax £	ers :	Dividend
259m (261m)	4.6m (5.6m)	20.80 (22.30)	Tip (Tip)
.408m (450m)	24.1m (19.2m)		\$.75p (3.75p)
1.13bn (527m)	97.5m (54,8m)		
30.1m (26.2m)	6.4m (5.65m)		
1.37bn (1.30bn)	72.6m (78.2m)		
23.1m (21.3m)	10.4m (9.1m)		- 3p (2.75p)
29 9m (36.4m)	15.3m (7.3m)	18.3p (8.3p)	1.60 (1.40)
358m (345m)			
6.57bn (5.99bn)			
1.150n (1.14bn)			
1.40bn (1.32bn)			
75 8re (85.6m)			24p (20.7p)
	Tornover £ 259m (261m) 408m (450m) 1.13bn (527m) 30.1m (26.2m) 1.37bn (1.305m) 23.1m (21.3m) 29.9m (36.4m) 358m (345m) 6.57bn (5.990n) 1.15bn (1.14bn) 1.40bn (1.32bn)	Torroover Σ         Pre-lax Σ           259m (261m)         4.6m (5.6m)           408m (450m)         24.1m (18.2m)           1.13bn (527m)         97.5m (54.8m)           30.1m (26.2m)         6.4m (5.65m)           1.37bn (1.305m)         72.6m (70.2m)           23.1m (21.3m)         10.4m (9.1m)           29.9m (36.4m)         15.3m (7.3m)           358m (345m)         -21.5m (14.8m)           6.57bn (5.995m)         320m (350m)           1.150n (1.140m)         46.0m (50.6m)           1.400n (1.32ba)         49.4m (44.0m)	259m (261m) 4.6m (5.6m) 20.8p (22.3a) 408m (450m) 24.1m (18.2m) 5.47p (4.34p) 1.13bn (527m) 97.5m (54.8m) 67.5p (38.4p) 30.1m (26.2m) 6.4m (5.65m) 19.3p (21.2p) 1.37bn (1.305m) 72.6m (70.2m) 17.01p (18.7) 23.1m (21.3m) 10.4m (9.1m) 8.21p (7.6p) 29.9m (36.4m) 15.3m (7.3m) 18.3p (7.3p) 258m (345m) -21.5m (7.4 gm) -13.4p (4.3p) 6.57bn (5.99bn) 320m (350m) 37.8p (3.5p) 1.15bn (1.148m) 46.0m (50.8m) 7.5p (7.3p)



# ction tide.

# market report/shares

#### DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3660.9 -21.0 FT-SE 250 4294.5 -2.0 FT-SE 350 1845.5 -8.5 SEAQ VOLUME 822.8m shares; 45,642 bargains Gilts Index 92.31 +0.01 SHARE SPOTLIGHT

# US enthusiasm puts a good head on JD Wetherspoon

Pub management companies, a relatively new breed as far as the stock market is concerned, continue to command glamour ratings, with JD Wetherspoon leading the pack. Wetherspoon jumped 41p to

an 832p peak after it disclosed that it had raised £13.5m selling shares to US investors. This sale occurred despite chairman Tim Martin's comments earlier this month that he was well blessed with bank facilities.

It is, however, the US love affair with Wetherspoon that is intriguing the market. After all, US institutions are not renowned for appreciating or supporting UK pubs. Indeed several of the pub buy-out schemes, put into place after the Government's ill-fated Beer Orders forced the big brewers to sell many of their pubs, were abandoned when promised US support was withdrawn once top management got involved.

Yet Wetherspoon, seiling at more than 32 times last year's earnings, is pulling in the American punters. Janus, a large US fund, has 16.21 per cent and even before the latest placing, involving 5 per cent of Wetherspoon, it was esti-mated that US investors had more than 40 per cent of the

company's capital. Wetherspoon, with more than 100 pubs, came to market at around 158p four years ago. The dramatic upsurge has already prompted some City analysis to suggest that the shares should be regarded as a sell. Williams De Broë, forecasting profits of £305m this year against £264m, hung a sell sign over the shares.

Takeover hopes have helped to ferment Wetherspoon's heady performance, with Bass and recently Greenalls regarded as the mostly likely to strike. Regent Inns, another managed pubs group, has also

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

enjoyed a soaraway market life, climbing from 135p to more than 1,000p.

But as the managed pub healthier at 835.5p as the comchains prosper, the tenanted

drums, with most close to their flotation levels. The market remained under the BSE whip, with many food shares drifting lower. Overall sentiment was depressed by the implications of the beef disaster, particularly its impact on the nation's economy. Government stocks lost more than

operations remain in the doi-

mained under some pressure on the foreign exchange

Stock market reporter of the year

> pany held investment meetings in the City. Talk of a takeover bid for Pfizer, the US group, was dismissed. P&O, duly confirming the proposed sale of its Bovis building side, gained 8p to 522p, despite the signalled

profits slump. Leading oils were strong as the crude price stayed firm and confident noises emerged from a US oil conference. British Pe-

troleum gained 12.5p to 568.5p and Shell 7p to 865p. Holliday Chemicals gained 9p to 122p. The group upset its supporters with a profits warning in January and earlier this month duly confirmed

£19.3m. There is, it appears, a growing well of support. with the drug operations cre-ating interest. SBC Warburg and Kleinwort Benson are said

conglomerate, added 2.5p to 260p with talk of a share buyback merging with buy support

from Warburg.
Food shares again presented a sorry bunch. Dalgety fell a further 11p to 413p; Northern Foods 3p to 180p and Unigate 7p to 400p. There were signs of a rally, or, perhaps, dead-cat bounce in some slices of the industry. Robert Wiseman rose 13p to 150p and Senter Faceties. try Farming, which said BSE was "unlikely to materially af-

fect" profits, 9p to 168p.
Worries about today's figures from Kingfisher, which are expected to embrace a

figures of £15.4m against yourself chain, lowered the shares 15p to 533p.

Vodatone slipped 2p to 248p

ahead of today's Orange launch. The Orange flotation is expected to be struck at to be positive on the shares.

Target price is put at 150p.

Tomkins, the buns-to-guns

Tomkins, the buns-to-guns

Tomkins afternoon and a short-term level of 250p is predicted. Such a price should result from Orange's inclusion in the FT-SE 100 index. which should force Footsic funds to scramble for the shares. Once they are satisfied the shares could fall back.

The Securicor revamp lifted the voting shares 218p to 2.023p; the non-voting "A" 120p to 1,175p and Security Services 115p to 1.168p.

Micro Focus, the computer group, responded to the arrival of a new chairman and chief executive with a 57p rise to 650p; Filtronic, on a profits warning, lost 22p to 353p; Panmure shake-up at the B&Q do-itchanged profits of £3.5m.

# The Independent Index

FT-SE 100 - Regi-time 00 Sterling Rates 04
UK Srock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20
Foreign Exchange 03 Yokyo Market 21

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

| 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service For a datalled description independent Index including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4375 (930am - 530pm).

Upton & Southern, the retail group, firmed to 3p as it swung back into the black with half-year profits of £274,000 against a £9.6 loss in the previous 12 months. Chairman Ron Trenter intends to develop the group's department store chain; a new store opens this year and

TRobert H Lowe, the packaging and textile group, is "ridiculously cheap" at 18p, believe John Siddall, the stockbroker. Analyst Audrey Carroll rates the shares a speculative buy.

negotiations to buy another

are under way.

Developments are expected at IES, the security group traded on Ofex. Managing director RW Ricks is said to blacklist and the postponed AIM move is likely to be accompanied by acquisitions

Privatisation Issues Water Shares Sectnoiry Shares High Street Banks

640000 Legal 8 General 570000 660000 C7 550000 650000 Laderole 520000 640000 Tesco 500000 630000 Lucas 400000

CHECKLINE
There is 6.12 million worth of premium Bond price and a second price and a seco

**PREMIUM BOND CHECKLINE** 

There is £12 million worth of

• Camas, the building materials group spun out of English China Clays, said it expected a demanding year ahead, as it unveiled a 26 per cent rise in profits to £24.1m for 1995, its first full 12 months as a separately quoted company. The group said a slow housing

market and the reduction in infrastructure spending would make 1996 difficult in the UK, with only private housing likely to show any improvement in the second half. After wet weather caused US operating profits to sink from £11.8m to £9.7m in 1995, market conditions were near foreverable them the group said. Analysis of the province were near foreverable them the group said.

ket conditions were now favourable there, the group said. Analysts are looking for group profits to rise to around £25m for the current year.

mitted to renewing the bid if the MMC report is favourable and would look for other acquisitions in the mean time. UniChem

reported a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £49.4m for last year. Problems with the introduction of new computer systems

held the advance in the main wholesaling division to 5 per cent, but strong volume growth propelled profits in the chemists busi-

Lloyd Thompson warned that the effect of lower interest rates

and higher expenses would reduce the normal second half bias in the insurance group's profits. Strong investment income and an S per cent rise in brokerage revenues led to a 14 per cent rise in pretax profits to £10.4m in the first six months to December. The group

announced the appointment of Richard Sermon as a non-execu-

tive director. Mr Sermon, chief executive of Shandwick Interna-

In Brief

ness 48 per cent ahead.

# Manchester United score big gains on transfer market

#### NIGEL COPE

Gains on the sale of players such ies Andrei Kanchelskis as well as cash from a video merchandising deal have doubled half-year profits at Manchester United as the club shoots for the Pre-

miership and FA Cup double. The sale of players netted £4.3m with Kanchelskis accounting for most of the proceeds. The sale of the Russian winger as well as Mark Hughes and Paul Ince also helped reduce the wage bill by 10 per cent. The gain compared with the previ-ous year's £3.5m transfer deficit. which included the purchase of

However, chief executive

Martin Edwards dropped heavy hints that the club would make new signings in the summer, backed by its £8m transfer pool. A f6m contract with the video group VCI netted a £2.5m cash payment with a further

£3.5m due to be paid in royalties over the next 30 months. Though pre-tax profits for the six months to December more than doubled to £15.3m, sales and operating profits were held back by the lower crowd capacity at the club's Old Trafford stadium, where the £28m North

Stand is being developed. Turnover fell 18 per cent from £30m to £30m. Operating profits fell from £10.8m to £8.5m.

games of the season. The company is also looking to develop the space within the giant stand. A further 1,500 executive seats are planned for the autumn. These currently cost £21,750 for an 8-seater box for the year. The company makes £7m a year from execu-

third to £3.3m as the team is not

competing in the lucrative

European Champions League

per cent lower as the rebuild-

ing work at the ground re-

duced the average attendance

from last season's 43,680 to

36,400 at the beginning of this

campaign. The lower crowds

also had an effect on confer-

ence, catering and merchan-

Construction of the three-tier

stand has been continuing

dising revenues.

Match gate receipts were 12

Executive prices are set to rise by an undisclosed amount for next season though the price of tickets on sale on match days will be held. A 900-capacity hanqueting hall and themed restaurant are also planned.



Double vision: Professor Sir Roland Smith, Manchester United's chairman (left), and Martin Edwards, chief executive, yesterday Photograph: John Voos

In the current year, Man-chester United have signed a lucrative shirt sponsorship deal ahead of schedule and specta-tor capacity will approach 55,000 for the last few home with Umbro, estimated at £8m a year. Mr Edwards said United should make a total of £500,000 from the five matches they are staging in this summer's European Championship.

Mr Edwards played down recent speculation that the club was considering launching its own cable TV channel which would screen live United matches. He said the rumours had "got a little out of hand". The club was contracted to a Sky TV deal with the strong recently, dropped 4p to 282p yesterday. Interior dividend is 1.6p, up from 1.4p.

rest of the Premiership until the end of next season. He added that any breakaway by United was likely to antagonise other clubs.

The shares, which have been

cess early in the season.

tional, is currently on secondment to Goldman Sachs International. Churchill China, the company made famous by Sir John Harvey-Jones's Troubleshooter television series, reported a 42 per cent rise in profits in its first full year as a listed company. Unveiling a pre-tax total of £5.1m for 1995, outgoing chairman Peter Siddall said benefits were already accruing from the company's five-year investment programme. Earnings per share rose from 25.5p to 32.9. Churchill is paying dividends of 11.25p, up from 2.19p in 1994.

Country Casuals, which last year fended off a bid from its former chief executive John Shannon, has returned to the black. Profits of £249,000 for the year to 27 January replaced a loss of £987,000 in the previous period, despite bid defence costs of £1.1m. The £454,000 received from settling a warranty claim against former parent Coats Viyella was almost completely wiped out by the costs of closing loss-making stores in the Elvi chain.

# • UniChem said interest on the £60m forked out for its 9.9 per cent stake in bid target Lioyds Chemists would be around £1m this year. The charge would come on top of costs of £10m already incurred in its £620m bid for the rival chemists chain, which has lapsed since being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Jeffrey Harris, chief executive, said he remained committed to renewing the bid if the MMC report is favourable and

Profitable moves: The sale of players such as (from left) Paul Ince, Mark Hughes and Andrei Kanchelskis brought in £4.3m and reduced United's wage bill

#### Struggling Millwall slump to loss (£1.5m) reflected the club's suc-

While Manchester United go from strength to strength, lowly Millwall continue to struggle both on and off the pitch, The group company Millwall Holdings slumped to a £376,000 loss in the six months to November 30 due to the absence of cup runs and investment in

6% 10.15% 10.1%

6 6:-

The company said the full-year result would depend on the progress of the team, which is currently mid-table in the First Division. The loss compared with a £113,000 profit in the previous year. Receipts from trans-fer fees were £1.2m compared with £2m in 1995. Millwall said the rise in turnover to £1.9m

Millwall have decided to diversify into communications and lessure. The new chairman, Peter Read, has brought in Graham Robson, former chief executive of Dalgety consumer foods, as chief executive. The

Liffe Fi	nancial	Future	S				Indus	trial	Meta	is		London I	Metal Exch	hange
Contract		Settlement price		h/Low r day	EstConts. traded	Open Interest			nne Cast	3 mins	Volume	LINE Stoc	· .	chg
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German Bond	(Jun 96)	9644	98.59	9825	129681	228934	Aluminium A	loy	1385-95	1423-30	412	78880		11B0
LG.Bond	(Jun 96)	118.45	118.50	1642	937	i	Copper A		2524-26	250-14	76453	328450	- 1	103CO
Italian Bond	(00.00)					•	Lead		818-23	798-99	9505 °	89250	+	775
3M Sterfing	(Jun 96)	9392	9393	9391	8968	B0822	Nickel		3260-70	8365-70	8773	34788	-	678
	(Sep 96)	93.72	93.73	93.69	10490	58939	Tin		8470-80	6475-80	4884	9065		160
3M Euro \$	(Jun 96)	98.77	9678	96.76	17342	235619	Zinc	1	0635-645	1086-89	12470	621550	- :	2800
3M Euromark	(Dec 96)	96.41	9643	9639	20211	175782								
	(Mar 97)	9609	9610	9606	12942	Tr2289		ari Com			S/Y	Stock volumes		u janus
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	(Sep 96)	9816	95.16	96.12	1567	13754	<del></del>				<del></del>	<del></del>		
Euro Sfr	(Jun 96)	36545	3673.0	38430	13275	62301	Preci	DUS	Meta	S		• .	Scink &	& Son
FT-SE 100	(Jun 96)	43150			0	3605								
FT-SE 250	(Jun 96)	90.43	9068	90.42	18328	39371	gan fit faz	;	3 5	Coine	3 2		· 5.	
Eurotra	(Jun 96)	10794	708.98	107.85	52510	49150	Platinum	4140	27186	Prisunnia	416 273	Krugrands	391/403	257.65
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Settlement pr	tca: 3661.D		sing offe			Call/Put	Gold Sum	39	26249	PLINE KAN'IN OS	52 34	, Maple Leaf	402/10 2	204/13
Series		3800	3650	3700	3750 .	Total vols	Agric	-14	لم	_		- · ·		
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RACING: The richest race ever can advertise the ability of 'the world champion' and the delights of Dubai as a sporting centre

# Cigar to blaze a trail for Sheikh's playground

RICHARD EDMONDSON

reports from Dubai

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養女 表 3

والمعورة والمنافئة المنافئة المنافئة

Much has been made this week arrival, of how much Sheikh Mohammed has spent promoting the Dubai World Cup, which to-day becomes the richest horse race run on the planet.

The natural consequence of this largesse to the openmouthed seems to be that the Sheikh is throwing away his money. The Sheikh, however, cannot be judged in normal terms. This is a man who has invested \$13m on a single (useless) horse by the name of Snaafi Dancer, a man who has purchased studs around the globe to house the best of his legions of horses. He also understands the power of publicity.

Down through the family lines the Maktoums have long placed emphasis on providing for succeeding generations. Today's race is another event to promote the value of the country to businessmen and holidaymakers around the globe, and if the objective is reached and the planeloads arrive, the amounts spent in fuelling today's visitors will seem piffling. Certainly the Sheikh himself

2.00 Potentate

3.10 Mariner's Air

3.40 Sister Stephanie

of entertaining his guests in the Emirates. "The more of you that come here the better it is for us." he told the press corps on their

The Sheikh says he does not care who wins the Dubai World Cup, but he must have a view and it may not be that one of his own horses takes the largest chunk of the \$4m prize. The best result for him, and the probable one too, in terms of advertisement would be a victory for the American champion. Cigar, who is owned by his sometime business ally Allen Paulson.

Paulson reports that Cigar did not lose a single pound in weight on his 14-hour trip from the United States, but that is as likely as passengers in first class not putting on a pound during the journey. Nevertheless, the horse looks as if he has stepped down from the canvas, his muscles hard and coat varnished.

The six-year-old completed a circuit of the Nad Al Sheba course under a threatening sky yesterday morning in the usual company of his trainer, Bill Mott, and his pony, Snowball. He appears unruffled by running under lights (which he has never tried competitively beis not troubled by the thought fore) and has taken well to the

deeper sand of Dubai's principal course. Paulson can envisage defeat only if there is a freakish intervention such as the arrival of space debris. "If everything goes as it should, he will win," he said. "But even if he doesn't, I will still think of him as the world champion."

The prospects of the home side keeping the trophy - a two-handled silver cup with images of the East, swirling sands and palm trees - lie largely with Halling and Tamayaz

The growing suggestion in Dubai this week is that the latter holds the stronger chance. The four-year-old was below top class in Europe last summer, but like many animals transported to the Gulf he has shown relentless improvement over the winter. "Tamayaz has surprised us," Sheikh Mohammed says, "and he is still improving.

Just six months ago, it would have been inconceivable to consider any other horse apart from Halling as Godolphin's best. But then came his disastrous attempt on the Breeders' Cup Classic, in which he slid so badly around the turns at Belmont Park that it appeared as if his hooves had been buttered. He has plenty to prove.

The best each-way chance may be another animal who competed in the Classic, America's L'Carriere, who finished two and a half lengths behind Cigar that late October day. He is trained by Bond, James Bond (well Jim to his friends actually), whose horses work in saddle cloth's bearing an 007

One certainty is that L'Carriere will lead for much of the race, consequently avoiding the kickback. This factor is against Geoff Wragg's Pentire, who has never run on dirt before and will now have to run through a curtain of sand when he makes his customary late surge.

Whatever gets to L'Carriere will have to show purposefulness as well as speed. "My horse will be grinding it out out there and grinding them all down," Bond said. "And whoever comes to him better be running because he won't give up."

There will be no surrendering either from Sheikh Mohammed as he continues to publicise his race and his nation. "The World Cup was a dream, a plan and now it is a reality," he said. "We will continue with this race and make Dubai the sports centre of the Middle



Matchless: Cigar, the hot favourite for today's \$4m Dubai World Cup

Photograph: Simon Bruty/Allsport

RESULTS

HUNTINGDON 1.50: 1. BARFORD SOVEREIGN (P Hide 11.8 tav. 2. Scandallach 25-1; 3. No Morals 50-1. 13 ran. 6, dist. U Fanshawel. Tota: £2.10; £1.60, £2.70, £7.70. Dusl Fore-

cast: £26.30. Computer Straight Forecast. £27.63. Tho: £139.30. E27.63, Tno: £139.30, 2.20: 1. IMMBNY'S CROSS (A P McCoy) evens fay, 2. Tim 5-1; 3. Clean Edge 5-2. 12 ram. nk, 22. (6 Gaiding, Tota: £1.90: £1.90, £1.20, £1.30, DF: £3.60, CSF: £6 54, Tno: £2.10.

#### Rough reception for Aintree favourite's short price

3.00 DUBAI WORLD CUP £2,580,645 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £1,548,387
1 11114-3 LIVERY MOUNT (RS) F Shines (Jap) 5.8 12 M Shines 1 1 2 12142-4 L'CARRESE (25) H J Bond (LS) 5.8 12 J Chavez 2
3 11513-1 LARROCHA (31) Seeed bin Surpor (U/O) 488 Pat Eddey 3
4 12142 SOUL OF THE MATTER (53) R Mandella (US) 5 8 12 G States 4
5 11110-1 HALLING (24) Sevent bin Surgar (UAE) 5.8.12
6 41/14-11 TAMAYAZ (17) Seeed by Surour (UAE) 4 8 11 C McCarron 6
7 1010-16 DANEWR (25) R Thomson (Aus) 5-5 12 D Object 7
8 11111-1 CISAR (47) W Moz (US) 8812 J Balley 8
9 15142-2 TORRENTIAL (24) Seeed bin Surcer (UNE) 4 8 11 O Pesiler 9
10 361452 NEEDLE GUN C Bottom (GB) 68 12 B Doyle 10
11 111211 PSTINE G Wrate (GE) 4 8 11 M Feb 11
- 11 declared -
BETTONG: overs Cider, 4-1 Holling, 9-2 Peoples, 7-1 Temporar, 12-1 L'Carrière, 14-1 Dancoln.

HYPERION

GOING: Soft (Reary in places).

Left-hand, undulating course with run-in of 2-10 yels.

Reccourse is on Aside. Chiepanow rail station (Cardiff – Gioucester line) is 1 mile away.

ADMISSION: Club & 12 (16 to 24-year-olds 55); Tatterallis 56; Course 55. GAR PARK:

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNIERS: M Pipe - 56 winners from 207 runners gives - a survess ratio of 26,0% and a lose to a \$1 level stake of \$9,15: N Twiston-Davice - 20 win-

ners, 98 rumers, 20.4%, +\$12.17; P. Robbe - 18 witners, 76 rumers, 22.7%, +\$45.26; D. Nicholson - 12 winners, 43 runners, 27.9%, -\$0.42,

Pitegerald - 10 wins, 64 fides, 15.0%, 5.13-8.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Radari (4.10) was at Bangor on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: One For Huns (4.10) has been sen; 152 miles J Poalizafrom Lewes, East Sussex: Woodlands Boy (3.40) sent 152 miles by B Hoad from Lewes,

2.00 BEAGLES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,472

FUND IN JONES JOHN R Upson 4 10 8. R Sapple 52 SHY PRIDDY (15) (Cenebury Resong Stables) K Countington-Brown 4 10 8... M A Fizageoids — 13 declared —

235 ANVIL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,071

...A P McCoy

-10 declared 
Maritum weight 10st Tue handkap weight Dannada & Bay Barter St. 13b, Dunnicks View St. Sb.
RETTUNG: 7-2 Jacon's Boy, 4-1 Hag's Way, 9-2 Oktobs Wood, 6-1 Edins, 9-1 Filmsy Truth, 10-1 Repted Debus, 14-1 Carolano, 16-1 others
1995: Uscci Sam 8 10 7 N Williamson 3-1 M W Etkleyl 11 can
colored during.

4:10 All Clear

4.40 Coome Hill

ly = 32 wins. 119 rides, 28.9%, -£16.96; C Uewellyn

Grand National punters have Ian Wassell, of Ladbrokes, re-

flown against the evidence of the form book and have ignored Rough Quest, the Gold Cup

ported.

The best supported horses yesterday were Lusty Light and Tartan Tyrant (both 20-1 from 33-1) and Antonin in to 33-1 from 50-1.

With the going at Aintree drying out all the time and now officially good, from good to soft, Tartan Tyrant may still be withdrawn, along with the to Be True. An infection in the chances of the gelding taking he has a bit of a tummy. We will

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Edina (Chepstow 2.35) NB: Twin Sailor (Chepstow 2.00)

eight-year-old's hock was dis-

CATTERICK

STALLS: Insute, DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low.

dings (3.25, visored). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

2.20 LADY CAROLINE LAMB (nap)2.50 Spencer's

Revenge 3.25 Peggy Spencer 4.00 Muchea 4.30 Windward Ariom 5.00 Deadline Time (nb)

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp.

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp.

MISSION: Couls 11: Takensals 57: Course \$2.50 (under 16s free unto all enclosures). CAR PARE: Members \$2, remander free.

RUNKERED FIRST TIME: Chillen (2,30), Everset (3,35), Four Wed-

2.20 SPRINGTIME LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 5f

000-3-1 GENERAL EQUATION (9) (0) | Batang 9 () | Edmands (7) 1 1-34102 GI IA HIGH (9) (0) (0) ) Berry 9 () PRoberts (6) 8 350-031 NITEONAL RAIDER (12) | A Hams 9 () | O | O | Proberty 7

– 9 decizred – BETTRIC: 2-1 Lady Caroline Lamb, 4-1 Beneral Equation, 5-1 Gl La High, 6-1 Nicond Raider, 7-1 Montrettar, 8-1 Queens Check, 12-1 others

2.50 FORCETT PARK SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 3YO 7f 00-6405 ALLESON'S MATE (12) (C D) T D Barron 8 9 10 ... Fortune 11.

1.13223 SPENCER'S REVENCE (9) (D) N Tritler 7 9 10 \_ G Center 13 472223 AWESONE VENTURE (9) (D) M Chepman 6 9 6 \_\_\_\_\_

2240: BRAMERLES WAY (1,029) W Bater 7 9 6 Membry (7) 12

3240: BRAMERLES WAY (1,029) W Bater 7 9 6 Flycon (5) 7

GOOGLE DESERT LORE 289 Mr. J. Ramsten 5 9 6 M. Bench 4

50-660: GREAT BEAR (27) D Oropman 4 9 6 A. Cultume 14

GOOGLE MISTINT GRUMBRUE (179) (D) D Number 6 9 8

3.25 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YD 7f

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places on home bend).

Tim Easterby-trained Toogood though this has been treated, the sious: "He looks fine, although

part at Aintree are 50-50.

Surprisingly, Greenhill Raf-fles, sold at the Doncaster sales take him to Aintree, working on Monday, will be a starter. The gelding, now trained by Lucinda Russell, will race in the colours of her father, Peter. Just 20 minutes after Greenhill Raffles arrived in her yard, Miss don in Surrey, won £62,662.08 covered on Monday and al- Russell gave her first impres- with a 40p line.

5 210000- SPANISH VERDICT (155) (D) Denys Smith 9 9 8...

13 205100 COMMANDER GLEN (IR1) Mis. | Ranssten 4.8.11 . K Fellon

.- 17 declared -BETTING: 5-1 Knobbleeneers, 7-1 Blue Bomber, Super Besz, 8-1 Nastunt, 12-1 Everset, Kid Ory, Peggy Spencer, 14-1 others

4.00 TOYTOP CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f

4 PERFECT BLISS P Louis 8 6 Samburs 2 5 RED GARTER K McNarfe 8 6 MW Mighem 3 - 5 doctored - BETTING: 4-7 Muchaea, 4-1 Silver Raj, 6-1 Perfect Bliss, 8-1 Red Garter,

4.30 YARM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 5f 175yds

216050- ADMIRALS SECRET (177) (CD) C Wall 7 9 1 ...... W Lord

- 20 accused - 4 Moment 7st 10th. The handcap regists in A Moment 7st 8th. Greek Night Our 7st 4th, Windwarm Anom 6st 7th. BETTING: 4-1 Desert Fighter, 5-1 Hullhamis, 6-1 Mazzais, 7-1 House of Dreams, 8-1 Mentiolassapythis, Cross Talk, 19-1 Sarawet, 14-1 others

5.00 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 3f 214yds

3 MUCHEA (6) M Charmon 8 11 .....

give him a canter tomorrow him on the track on Friday." ■ The Tote Jackpot was won at Huntingdon yesterday to a dividend of £156,655.20 to a £1 stake. One punter, from Couls-

56 54, Tro; £2,10.
2,55: 1, CATS RHN (R Supple) 14-1; 2.
Ace Player 16-1; 3. Pettaugh 7-1, 12 ran.
7-2 fax Henry Cone. 3, nl. (John R Upson)
Tote: £16.60; £2.60, £5.00, £2.10. DF:
£180.60. CSF: £199.49, Troast: £1,554.25. Ino: £175.00.
3.25: 1. CONTI D'ESTRUVAL IAP McCoyl
8-1; 2. Derwer Bay 13-2; 3. Gross Cannon
7-2; 8 ran. 3-1 fav Maneree (4th). 5, nl. IG
Balangi. Tote: £8.90; £1.50, £2.40, £1.80.
05: £36.20. CSF. £52.45. Incast. £195.26.
4.00: 1. THE BOUNDER II A McCarthy 161: 2. Amaze -3-1 fav. 3. Pa d'Oy 14-2; 4.
Mr. Morianty 6-1. 20. ran. 4: 16. IO. Sherwood. Tote: £20.40; £3.60, £2.20, £3.90,
£1.50. Df: £73.20. CSF. £85.97. Tncast.
£914.47. Tho: £279.70. NRs. Oxidy Rymer
& Portscatino.

& Portscatho. 4.30; 1. GREY SMOKE (J F Titley) 5-1; 2. 4.30: 1. GREY SMACKE UF Titley, 5-1; 2. Shining Light 7-2; 3. Over The Corrib 15-2; 11 ran, 5-4 fav Bet Staffboy, 11, 27, (Miss H Kright), Totae; 15,00; £2.10, £1,40, £1,50. DF; £9.80, CSF; £22.65, Tho: £10.80, NR: And Why Not. 5.00: 1. MARELLO (G Cahiti 5-1; 2. Scoundrel 10-1; 3. Spring Gale 14-1; 22 ran, 3-1 fav Sounds Like Fun, 3, nd. (Mrs M Reveley), Totae; £10.90; £4.70, £2.60, £5.90, DF; £43.10, CSF; £75.97, Tho: not won (£564.55 to Carlence 3.25 today), Jacknot: £156.655,20.

Jackpot: £156,655.20. t: £74.30. Duadout: £61.70

Place 6: £194.26. Place 5: £83.63

NEWCASTLE
2.30; 1 YEST IR Cotvarie) 5.2; 2 Wisim 6:15 fav; 3. Green Bopper 11:2.7 ran.
2, 6, (WH2935), Tote: 12:30; £1.70, £1.20.
OF. £1.80, CSF: £4.78.
3.05; 1, MILETRIAN REFURB /R Hughes)

6-4 (a); 2. Polar Refrain 8-1; 3, Lucky Bea 20-1; 12 ran, 2-n; 1. (M Channon), Tetes £2.60; £1.20; £2.00, £2.90, DF: £7.60, CSF: 613.77 Inc. 646.50 2.13.77. Inc: £48.50.

3.35: 1. ARIAN SPIRIT (I. Chamock) 8-1;

2. Top Prize 14-1; 3. Hotspur Street 7-1.

11.ran. 11-4 for Jarash. 2; 2. U Leyer. Tota:

7.60; £2.60, £7.90, £2.10. Dr. £62.70.

CSF: £101.79. Tneast: £757.22. Tno:

£246.90.
4.10: 1. STOLEN KISS (k Darey) 12-1:
2. Boffin Harry 6-1 j. fax; 3. Barato 16-1.
14 ran, 11-1 jr. fax Caprain Caral Mith. 1,
15:: M W Easterby. Tote: £16.30: £3.80,
£7.50, £6.90. DF: £58.90, CSF: £79.90. Incss: £1,112.80. Too: £537.90. 4.40: 1. BLUE MOVIE (M Fernor) 1.2 far; 2. Fm Still Here 5-1; 3. Wagga Moon 5-2. 4 ran. -h, 9. fm Bell), Tobe: £1.40, DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.35.

CSF: £3.35.
5.10: 1. ASTRAL WEEKS (K Faton) 201: 2. Steadfast Elite 10-1: 3. Drummer Hicks 16-1. 15 ran. 13-2 fa. Gold Desrestr-hd, sixt-hd. (Lumgo). Tore: £19-90; 15-50, £3.60. £3.20. DF: £172-10. CSF: £195.57. Treas: £3,010.09. Tro: £417.20.

Placepot: £1,211.90. Quadpot: £812.90 (part won, £999.68 to Cattenck today). Place 6: £396.07 Place 5: £352.71. SANDOWN 2.10: 1. CALLISOE BAY (J Osborne) 4-7 (at: 2. Perhaps 13-8; 3. Pennine Pass 25-1. 3 ren. 22, 4, (O Snetwood). Tote: £1-60.

DF: £1.20 CSF: £1.70.

24.55: I. NICKABLIOCH IR DUWOOdy) 11
42.55: I. NICKABLIOCH IR DUWOOdy) 11
43. Mavenima Gale 66-1: 3. Haveel Lad

11-4.5 ran, 13-8 fav Falmouth Bay turseettel
oden, dest, dist. U Xing), Toter, £2.50;

51.60. £4-40. DF: £2.65.0. CSF: £4.61.0,

3.15: 1. NORMAN CONQUEROR (Major
OFTMORTH 46 fars 2. Time Sheat 46-3. Const. O Elwoodi 4-6 tax; 2. True State 9-2; 3. Cool And Easy 17-2: 8 ran. 4, 12. (T Thomson Jones), Tota: £1.70; £1.20, £1.10, £1.80, DF: £2.80, CSF: £3.92, True: £5.20, NR: Mag-3.50: 1. YORKSHIRE GALE (G Boxley) 11-

1; 2. Equity Player 9-2; 3. Arthur's Man-strel 15-8 in. 5 ran. 5, 16. U Gifford. Total £9.00; £3.20, £2.10, DF: £19.70, CSF: 

4-5 fav; 2, Beau Bo's Return 6-1; 3, So-claf Climber 33-1, B ran, 27:, 27, ID Caro. Totte: £1-20, £1-30, £1-10, £3-60, DF: £6-80, CSF; £6-28, Tro: £92-40, NRs: Aman King,

Haftern Tarn, Synderborough Lad, Trust The Gypsy & Windy Ways. Placepot: £128.90, Quadpet: £28.20. Place 6: £151.17 Place 6: £94.26.



0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES HELLS CATTERICK 971 981

CHEPSTOW 972 LINGFIELD 973 0891 261 970

runner-up, in betting on Saturday's big race. Rough Quest is still the favourite, but has been eased to 5-1, from 4-1 and 9-2, by Ladbrokes and William Hill respectively. "Rough Quest remains lightly backed, despite ap-pearing a handicap good thing,"

handicep, but he does not look the toughest of animals, while Country Store has a poor run behind Yes Man at Utioneter to overcome. But Country Store could still be a threat on her Folkestone win last season from Gillan Cove, Evangeties won a seller fiere last season and returns to hunding eiter faiting as a chaser.

Solection: MARINER'S AIR.

3.40 PARDUBICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m Penalty Value £3,758 1.2121F SISTEM STEPTHARE (18) (RF) (The Anthrock Pertnesstep) G McCourt 7 11 10. 4-60054 NCRUISH PIPER (18) (R) GS Globoni N Geolete 11 11 5. 25P-279 BOWL OF DATS (19) (Mrs Anthrony Montey) Andrew Turnel 10 11 5 1135-26 GOURNIESS WERKISCHAN (26) (Yuw Dowes) N Balley 10 11 2.

FORM GUIDE

1995: Mr Fenegan 9 11.2 G Bradley 13-2 C Brookey 12 ran FORM GUIDE.

Graham McCourt ends a 21-year nong career on Stater Stephenie, a mare he trains. Sister Stephenie has the weight to dely against some slowish rivals and jumped bridgingth here last time only to fall as the final fence when racing level with hing Lucefr, who also caree down. She is highly talented and will set this lot a task even with the big weight. A numer with the stable in fine form is DESPERATE, who won his share of races for Nigel Twiston-Davies, including two hardle successes on this course. Desperate has read only two starts for Oliver Sherwood this season and this little wrong against course specialist. Nazzaro at Fonduel five weight ago. Distinctive is a progressive stayer who found be Be Bind and Philip's Woody too good at Newhury last time. He had won a week earlier at Lacesser when gating the weight from Richardson (winner next time) and his chance is semilar today off 10st 9b. Richard Dunwoody has just the one ride at the meeting on Kentish Piens, who is binkered for the first time. He had a still task at the weights against Bells Life here last time and was previously 12 lengths admit of Dusmotive at Newbury. He is 7th bester in, but whether he has retained the old ability remains to be seen. Holly Stillar did not jump that well at Towcester lest month, firishing 11 lengths behind Stiller Stephenie when third to Billigsan Graff. He enjoys a 23th out, but again jumped poorly at Bangor next time. Coenties, Seen and Stillar Stephenie when third to Richard Bendik and still here leaded the run when 30 lengths behind Desmiches at Lacesser. Shemsaynbil rases doubts, despute lasting nextwoyle gainst behalf Desmiches at Lacesser. Goodshot Rich has been in hunter chases and may have the dash to win this, while Woodshods Boy (ties testing ground) is preferred to Bowl Of Osts.

SETTING: 5-2 Potentiats, 11-4 Green Crusoder, 6-1 Twin Sallor, 7-1 Sky Paddy, 8-1 Hungfern Out To Dry, 12-1 Sky Sallor, Runking Symbol, 14-1 others, 1995: Kitene Albot 6 11 8 J Ostome 15-8 U Olig 23 nn FORM GUIDE

The betting will be interessing here with Green Crusoder finishing 12 lengths shead of POTENTATE in the Cheltenham Festival opener won by Indefence. Potentiate, one of four Mertin Price numbers in that curtain-raiser, lacked the pace after being profunent to halfway, while Green Crusoder never featured in the argument. Potentiate is favoured today, the former Paul Cole Flat numer having made a winning debut on this course in good style. Sarurday's Nexhory wither expended a winning debut on this course in good style. Sarurday's Nexhory with earth-a-half month lay-off, the went state with Michael Shutte of the some good early wins and Potentiate is farciaed to prove too strong for him. Hangfern Out To Dry won his trish point in the mud, so this ground will suit him bedier than the good at Doncaster when a pleasing exertin of 19 to Tara Rambler, while Tim Forster's bumper horse Twin Sallor (flouth to Nasone at Newbury) may need further. 4.10 COURT SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,038 

1 Champor, 15-1 others. 1995: Il Bambino 7 10 13 M Appleby 5-1 (H Manners) 18 am

FORM GUIDE

ALL CLEAR is taken to best Kadan. All Clear has improved since beating Zahid in a setter ALL CLEAR is taken to best kegen. All clear has improved since leading zerrol in a serior at Utboaker and his Taunton will from Lake Kintha was boosted when that immer-ing well in third to Divertimento here this month. Hampered at Haydock last time, All Clear must take the besting on this return to plating class. Kaddarf is an in-form miser after with at Utboaker and Bungor, and she meets All Clear on similar terms to a hyndrogo. She will test All Clear to the full, white Forcing Two was suited by the softer stamma test lost one when beaden a short head by stablemete Zamirah – his previous starts being on the faster ground at Ludow and Catterick. Selection: ALL CLEAR.

4.40 EARTHSTOPPERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m Penalty Value £1.744

PETITIVE: 13.4 Cooke HN, 3-1 Rolland Homes, 9-2 Petry Thrower, 11-2 Gookle Gold, 6-1 Hower's sac, 8-1 Lighter The Leni, 19-1 My Metror Man, 14-1 others 1985: Holland House 9 11 3 Mr C Vigne 9-4 (P R Chemings) 16 ran sch

5.10 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,364 TRYMOPLY OH J N. Webb) H Webb 4 10 8 ....

# 

LINGFIELD · HYPERION 2.10 Domak Amaam 2.45 Juliasdarkinvader 3.20 Tuigamata 3.50 Victory Team 4.20 Arlington Lady 4.50 Colosse

GOING: Standard. GOING: Standard.
STALLS: In - outside; remainder - Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low from 5f to 7f 140yd.
Equitacle surface: left-band, sharp undulating course.
E Course is conti-east of town on RVC95 Edenbridge road. Ling-field railway stallion (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. AD-MISSION: Members 513, Tattersalls 59; Silver Ring 55. CAR PARK:

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sussex Gorse (2.45), Persian Haze (4.50), Durham (2.45, visored) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Fort Enex (3.50) won

se (4.50) has been sent 258 miles by J L Eyre from Sutton 2.10 SAN SEBASTIAN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 370 7f (AW)

at Lugised on Saurday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Virtury Bound (2 10) has been sent 2 to miles by M Johnston from Maddleham, North Yorkshire;

6 6 WAPPOINT (JES) R Crestion 8 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_T Sprake 6 6 declared BETTENG: 1-2 Domait Assessm. 4-1 Victory Bound, 7-1 Waypoint, 8-1 Go
With The Wind, 15-1 Locition, 25-1 Sheltes Dream

2.45 VIGO CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2m (AW) 0000-14 ALLEZ CYRANO (12) M Bel 5 9 6...

- Succession - Suc

 - 9 declared Michigan weight: 7st 10b, True handicap weights: Conquistagade 7st 6th, Fergal 7st 1th
 BETTRUE 6-4 Deadline Time, 3-1 Dancing Cavalier, 7-2 Thoratoun Estata, 7-1 Jackson Park, 10-1 Organg, 14-1 Four Weddings, 16-1 ethers 3.20 BILBAO LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 2f (AW) 

3.50 LIMA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m (AW) 40306-2 VICTORY TEAM (27) G Balong A 9 10 R Co 423011 FORT INIOX (4) (CD) R Flower 5 9 10 (5eq 20 003005 WALKIN BEACH (123) (D) G L Moore 5 9 6 S VINI 3 003005- WANGO BEACH (123) (0) (1) Noore 5 9 6 ... 5 Whitworth 8
4 313602- LABLIDD (27) (CD) R Ingran 6 9 0 ... W Woods 1
5 0555-1 SARLIM (13) (CD) C Wooman 10 8 13 ... C. Rutter 4
6 20200-2 SORY YERN (12) (CD) I Beadley 9 6 11 ... S Drowne (3) 5
7 000-30 DANTERN (27) (BP) R USulman 4 6 5 ... 1 Quan 3
3 300000- AUTURN COVER (1421 R Flower 4 8 3 ... ... C Retroit 6
9 0-00202- WOOLVERSTONE HALL (25) 0 Numpy Smit 4 7 10. M Adams 6
10 0600-02 MARIC LEADER (30) T Clement 4 7 10 ... 6 Bardwelt 7
— 10 declared Marborne 7g 100. The weights Woodestone Hall 7s 8u, Magic Leaser 7s 3b.
BETTING: 9-4 Fort Hoot, 5-2 Victory Team, Saruth, Labadd, 8-2 Weildel
Beach, Sooty Team, 14-1 others

ach, Souty Term, 14-1 others

4.20 SANTANDER HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO BF (AW) 1 00-22 YOUNG MAZAD (2) D 0 Bren 9 7 6 Bardech 2
2 0-23532 SUNSET MARBOUR (22) T J brugston 9 6 R Cochanne 6
3 33 3/25 DANCING MACK (29) (C) J Brugston 9 6 R Cochanne 6
4 233235 ROWMARDSONS STUD (13) G L Moore 9 Libane O'Nell (5) 4
5 202-424 BADGER BAY (25) C Doyst 9 0 Jane 3
6 00000 BURL (152) N Crattern 8 5 D Harrison 8 6 MR Renry (5) 1
6 0400-05 ZUNO PRINCESS (39) T Power 7 10 JA Baird (5) 8 - 8 declared -

Minimum weight 7st 10st True handcap weight Zuno Princess 7s 90. BETTING: 7-4 Separat Harbour, 9-2 Young Mazzaid, Badger Bay, 5-2 Dane-ing Jock, 6-1 Routendoune Stud, 8-1 Zuno Princess, 14-1 others

4.50 SANTIAGO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 4f (AW) BETTHRE 11-10 Colosse, 5-4 Bag Of Tricks, 8-1 Ready To Draw, 10-1 Tele-

test being, 14-1 Covatero, 16-1 others
1996: Leoca Sam 8 10 7 N Milliamson 3-1 IM W Extley 11 cm
Press is a week race with RUSSELL DALUS the type to collect despite returning from a lengthy
absence. Second to Gitine A Buzz in a Hereford bumper and a hundles winner from Beauchamp
byress on his next start at Haydock att morths issue, Russell Dalus lost his way affermants,
but could stail be good enough for this on his chasing debut. Hag's Way, winner of two of
but could stail be good enough for this on his chasing debut. Hag's Way, winner of two of
but could have finished than a better chance and this was his winning trip at Forntwell.
This reandcap gives him a better chance and this was his winning that a forntwell. Eather
though have finished than to libber the Vibber at Lelosster but for a tail at the last. She was
an earny casualty at Lingfield heat time, but is young enough to improve. A well-bearien than
an Bendor Mark in the Lingfield neat time, but is young enough to improve. A well-bearien than
an Bendor Mark in the Lingfield neat time, but is young enough to improve. A well-bearien than
a Bendor Mark in the Lingfield neat time, but is young enough to improve. A well-bearien than
a Bendor Mark in the Lingfield neat time miles, returne to a Sanzier than to his Sanger van from Destes
and, after two delegas over time miles, returne to a Sanzier than to his Sanger van from Destes
and, after two delegas over time miles, returne to a Sanzier thap to his Banger van from Destes
and, after two delegas over time miles, returned to a Sanzier than to be Beau Babrilland at Lingfield.
This tanger on pound help his cause after an eight-length fourth to Beau Babrilland at Lingfield.
Sed on his drivers go ishowed nothing, He was a game abound to North Bannister in a
fertures time of the start of the star This is the toughest test so far for the unbeaten Coome Mill, whose wins over regulation ferroes were gained at Wincenton. A good run looks assured, but the very tough MOLLAND MOUSE, may just prove doo strong. Holland house is following the same path as its year after a run in the Cheltenham Forduriters. Second to Fantus at the Festival and a 20-length within of this rate next time out, Holland House will again prove hard to best after his staying-on fifth to Elegant Lord a forthight ago, Goodde Gold was only tho lengths between the looks a door stayer and may do better than Percy Thrower, unlucky to fad on a bend at Luction less time but a getting stat to tron out his jumping errors.

Selections HOLLAND HOUSE. This is the toughest test so far for the unbeaten Coome Hill, whose wins over regulation 3.10 FARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 addled 2m \_\_B Powel

– 9 deciares » Minimum weight 12st True handicab relights: Alboren 9st 13b, Country Store 9st 12b, Silver Stan-Carr 95 1701. SETTING: 3-1 Marken's Air, 4-1 Landad Gentry, 5-1 Telesriy's GMT, 11-2 See Surfer, 6-1 Nilcores Seg. 7-1 Co Mary, 9-1 Sever Standard, 12-1 others Seg. 7-1 Co Mary, 9-1 Sever Standard, 12-1 others Sep. 7-1 Co Mary, 9-1 Sever Standard, 12-1 others Sep. 7-1 Co Mary, 9-1 Sever Standard, 12-1 others Sep. 7-1 Co Mary, 9-1 Sever Standard, 12-1 others 

4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,716

Selection: RUSSELL DALUS.

After his deflating experiences over the past few days. Hristo Stoichkov wanted no beef with the English, Disparaging, if not downright insulting, about our game and its players, including one Paul Gascoigne, in the past, the Bulgarian maestro was in more diplomatic mood

Mobile phone in one hand. autograph pen in the other. Stoichkov cut a familiar figure as a modern-day professional footballer - even eastern European ones. Having arrived straight from Milan in advance of the rump of the Bulgarian parry, he suddenly went through the motions for a posse of autograph hunters at the team's St Albans hotel, although not all seemed satisfied, "Stoichkov's signature wasn'i very tidy, was it?" said one anorak to another.

At least he managed to get

Clive White finds the hub of an east European team fired up to face England

garian than the press initially did. A welcome in Spanish from one Italian journalist was met with a frosty glare from the Parma player, which probably had more to do with recent events than any long-term disenchantment with his former Barcelona employers. Never mind English roast beef, Parma ham has not been particularly digestible of late for inhabitants of that northern Italian city.

Unexpectedly knocked out of the Cup-Winners Cup quarter finals by Paris St-Germain last Thursday, thereby bringing to an end a run of three consecutive years as European finalists, Parma then bid arrivederci to any

# Scots' dummy run for Dutch

PHIL SHAW

reports from Glasgow

Cynics have suggested that the only place where Scotland and Australia would draw a crowd is Murrayfield, and that the Socceroos" might be less than ideal opponents for a team preparing for the European Championship. Undaunted. Craig Brown is approaching tonight's friendly at Hampden Park as if the month were June and the venue Wembley.

Brown vesterday named a starting line-up that is as close to his "first XI" as any Scotland manager is ever likely to get for a non-competitive fixture at this stage of the season. It includes only one uncapped player. Celtic's Brian O'Neil, and two others, Craig Burley and John Spencer, who have something to prove before Brown announces his squad for the finals.

The selection of O'Neil is particularly interesting, albeit one forced upon Brown by the injury to Colin Calderwood. As a midfielder who converted to central defence, the 23-year-old from Paisley tends to use the main rival, the Motherwell stopper Brian Martin.

Brown's admiration for O'Neil is such that when asked to nominate his best sporting moment of last year, he replied: "Hearing that Brian O'Neil was back in training." A knee injury kept him out for 10 months, and as recently as three weeks ago. doubts were raised over his match fitness when he was substituted during a Scottish Cup tie.

The diminutive Spencer will play off Ally McCoist, who captains the side in his 50th international, thus resuming a CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE

Endsleigh Insurance League

FA Carling Premiership

FA Cup semi-finals

First Division

partnership last tried when they

were together at Rangers. Spencer, who cleaned Mc-Coist's boots as an apprentice, is one of several attacking players vying to make the cut. "He's not a certainty," Brown said. "But his club performances have made him a probability. He can clinch it in the next two friendlies." Three-quarters of Brown's

midfield are available, with Paul McStay's 73rd cap being his first since the draw in Russia a year ago. Gary McAllister admitted he hopes to exorcise the "major downer" of Leeds' Wembley embarrassment, while John Collins, persistently linked with Everton, has a predeadline chance to impress other potential purchasers.

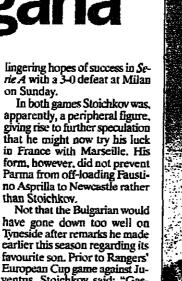
We expect Australia to be very athletic, mobile and tactically sophisticated," Brown said. "When we played them 10 years ago [in a World Cup playoff] we only won 2-0 over the two games, and they've improved massively since then."

Moreover, he anticipates that the Australians, coached by the former Hearts player Eddie Thomson, will provide a "dummy run" for when the Scots play ball more constructively than his the Netherlands at Villa Park. Like the Dutch, Thomson favours a three-man defence.

> The Socceroos squad reflects the influence of Australia's strong ethnic communities from European countries. Half earn their corn in England, and the sight of Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich in goal should serve as both an incentive to McAllister and a warning to Scotland that they must not underestimate vistiors who are gearing up for a World Cup qualifying campaign. SOTIAND IV Australia, Hampler Perk, Imagittelegister Hermanic Barley October, O'Nell Conc. Healthy Statioum, Boyd Genet. Healthing Blackman Medical (Central Healthing) Blackman Medical (Central Healthing)

21 Shrewsbury v Hull ...... 22 Stockport v Octord Utd...

Third Division



than Stoichkov. Not that the Bulgarian would have gone down too well on Typeside after remarks he made earlier this season regarding its favourite son. Prior to Rangers' European Cup game against Juventus, Stoichkov said: "Gascoigne will never be the player he once was, I'm afraid. After so many injuries it is virtually impossible to get back to your best. He'll never see glory like the 1990 World Cup again." Stoichkov was also scathing of Manchester United's de-

fence after he and his Barcelona team-mate, Romario, humbled them a the Nou Camp in last seasor. European Cup tie, describing it as "a mess". Even though Gary Neville played no part in that débacle in Spain, he too might feel there is a question of honour at stake tonight.

If it is motivation the English need, the Bulgarians have placed plenty on record to suffice. Try this one: "Ryan Giggs is a superstar in England only because Premier League defenders are very fat," the de-fender Tsanko Tsvetanov said, although the quote may have lost something in translation. Leaving aside such flippant

matters, it will be interesting to observe the quality of Bulgar-ia post USA '94. The World Cup semi-finalists reaffirmed their emergence as a leading nation during the European Championship qualifiers, but there is a suggestion that they are past their peak. Their player of the year, the midfielder Krasimir Balakov, of VfB Stuttgart, may be absent with flu, but otherwise it appears to be a full-strength side, with players arriving last night from all corners of Europe including Reading.

The Royals' goalkeeper. Borislav Mikhailov, he of the toupee, was there first to welcome his countrymen with a kiss and a handshake, including Yordan Lechkov, whose balding pate claimed victory with a header against Germany in 1994 and who looks long overdue a transplant of his own.

his room to join the welcoming party, eventually condescended to speak to the press and suddenly appeared in more bullish mood: "With 14 or 15 players playing abroad in good leagues, and after such an excellent World Cup and European Championship, we are not afraid of anyone, either to-morrow or in the coming finals," he said. "They should be afraid of us. As for England, they have a lot of good players in their side, but I believe their best player is Terry Venables.'

33 Northampton v Scumborpe 34 Rochdale v Gillingham .......

GM Vauxball Confe

Bell's Scottish League

First Division

AND POOLS FORECAST



## McCarthy eager to get started

DEREK POTTER

Apart from the beginning - a 1-0 defeat by Wales in Dublin 10 years ago today - and the end his departure was bungled and painful, it was a happy decade

for Jack Charlton. Happy for the Irish too, with the renaissance of a football nation that had always offered talented individuals but rarely a team worth crossing the Liffey to watch, much less the Irish Sea.

Now it is the turn of Mick Mc-Carthy, Charlton's successor and often his field marshal during his 57 games for the Republic, who will clearly be his own man. Heavy rain yesterday forced McCarthy to abandon training

46 Dundee v Morton ... 47 St Johnstone v Harr

Second Division

Third Division

Four draws: Lutor, vipswich, Brighton v Roth ham, Eveter v Barnet, Partick v Motherwe

Five aways: Bemingham, Tran ham, Rongers, Dundee United.

48 St Mirren v Dundee Lite

at Lansdowne Road, where and challenging job. "I want tonight his team face Russia in a friendly which is a 46,000 sellout. He did, however, name his first team yesterday, officially unveiling a new formation, a new regime, fresh hope.

who is not yet 20, wins his fourth cap in midfield and goalkeeper Shay Given of Blackburn Rovers, who is currently on loan to Sunderland and playing a vital part in their promotion push, wins his first.

"If ever there is a time to play someone, it's when he is playing as well as he possibly can and Given looks a very good keeper," McCarthy said, resisting the temptation to return to the old guard of Pat Bonner. He later singled out Kennedy for a particularly interesting

Mark to play a role similar to his team-mate Steve McManaman at Liverpool I want him to work hard in midfield, be creative and support the front two. We've worked and what I want from them.

"I have made my mind up some time ago about how I want us to play. The Russians look good and have talented individuals, but they might find our system might not suit them. People will want to see what changes I have made and to watch a very good Russian team

I can't wait to get started."

REPUBLIC OF IFELAND (v Russia, Lans
downe Road, boolgful; Ghen (Blacktun
Rovers), McGarth (Astor Vila), Kennegher
(Marchester City), Stammon (Astor Vila)

## Gillespie's opportunity

at St James' Park at the moment, will be anxious to prove a point to the Newcastle manager, Kevin Keegan, when Northern Ireland take on Norway tonight in Belfast.

The former Manchester United winger, however, makes no fuss in public about being out of favour at club level, "I just hope there is a decent crowd at Windsor Park to cheer us on," he said. "It was great last time and we put in a really good per-

The Northern Ireland manager, Bryan Hamilton, has no doubts about Gillespie: "He's fit so he's in from the start," he said. Sunderland's Phil Gray is missing from the attack, so Spurs reserve Gerard McMahon stands

West Ham's lain Dowie.

by to win his fifth cap, alongside

# **IAAF** threat to Lisbon laboratory

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

The Lisbon laboratory which conducted the doping test on Di-ane Modahl looks increasingly likely to have its official status revoked in the wake of strong criticism from the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

In dropping the case against Modahl on Monday, the IAAF expressed "grave concern" about the way her sample had been stored, and the Portuguese facility faces losing its place as one of the 24 laboratories accredited by the International Olympic Committee to con-

duct drug testing worldwide.

A source within the IAAF hinted yesterday that Lisbon's status may be in doubt, and more stringent procedures were being considered. But the official line was that nothing was being de-cided until the IOC had studied IAAF reports over the case.

Dr Patrick Schamasch, director of the IOC medical commission, confirmed yesterday that Lisbon had fulfilled all the requirements of the annual acereditation process last April, but refused to comment on how the laboratory stood in the light of IAAF criticism.

Two other laboratories have in recent years - both for nonelations of organised doping for DDR athletes. It has since been re-accredited. The laboratory at Ghent is awaiting re-accreditation following a conflict of regulations between its nationa body and the IAAF.

The IAAF came under fire yesterday from its former: spokesman Christopher Winner. Winner, who left the IAAF last year, claimed its decision over Modahl was motivated by money, given that the president, Primo Nebiolo, had made it clear he wanted fewer legal wrangles. and arbitration cases after the expensive Butch Reynolds affair.

"At the time of her original ban the IAAF already knew that doubt and confusion were doubnant in the case," Winner said. Still, they pressed ahead in what became a fierce and futile medical tug-of-war. The IAAF could nave ended the ordeal with the same phrase uttered nearly two ears later - 'serious element of doubt'. At the time, however, financial considerations were less pressing upon the governing body and they chose to maintain a hard line. Since it was always billed as a watershed case about drugs and drugs-testing, the

way it was conducted and the way it has been closed is cavalier and shameful."

In the meantime, William Hill are giving odds of 33-1 on Modahl winning the Olympic 800 metres title. Eric Hughes. her team manager at Sale Harriers, had a more conservative prediction: "I'm absolutely sure you will see Diane in Atlanta. She has felt betrayed and it's not surprising in view of the terment she has been put through.

"But I think she realises only very small percentage have been against her and the vast ma-jority of people were convinced of her innocence. Diane has the courage and strength to show the world she is still a fine athlete."

Modahl, who has not competed internationally since the summer of 1994, has had only two outings since winning her appeal - a road race and a crosscountry relay. Her husband and coach, Vicente, has been satisfied with her progress. "She is in the sort of shape she would normally be in at this time of the year," he said. "She will definitely run the

Olympic trial, even if her feelings about the BAF make it difficult."
In the light of her on-going legal battle with the BAF for £480,000 in compensation, it is the mental rather than the physical adjustment which may had their accreditation revoked prove hardest for her as she seeks an 800m place alongside East Germany, had its status list Kelly Holmes, 10my downgraded in the wake of the spokesman for the BAF, said:

We hope she can return to topclass competition. She would be welcomed back into the team.

The BAF insist they will defend the action "vigorously". They want the IAAF to share their costs of around £200,000 and to pay the fees of both sides since last October for not immediately accepting Modahl's successful London appeal against a four-year ban. Modahl's solicitor, Tony Morton-Hooper, has also called on the IAAF to make amends for what has happened to her". The IAAF are showing no inclination to pay up.

Du'Aine Ladejo, Britain's

European 400m champion, has called for a fund to be established for athletes in Modahl's position. "To test positive and know that you are innocent is an athlete's biggest nightmare," he said. "She has lost everything. There needs to be a fund of

some sort set up to help her Ladeio maintained that the onus of making good the costs Modahl has incurred in her 18month battle to clear her name was heavily on the IAAF. "No one can be exquerated in a case like this and not be refunded." he said. "The BAF seem to have followed the right procedures."

#### Britain grab the goals

BILL COLWILL

Great Britain

Great Britain eventually overwhelmed a ponderous and defensive French side in the first of their two-match Test series at Bisham Abbey yesterday, despite a first-half performance lacking direction and purpose.

After Jane Sixsmith had giv-

en Britain the lead at a penalty corner 16 minutes into the game, Britain lost their way for long periods, lacking the imagination to penetrate the French defence. It was the conversion of a

penalty stroke by Sue MacDon-ald which opened the floodgates. After two penalty corner strikes by Sue Fraser, another goal from Rhona Simpson and a second from MacDonald, also from a penalty corner, Panline Robertson capped a powerful display in midfield with a fine goal seven minutes from time to complete the scoring. The teams meet again today at the same venue.

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D Renisson Europh); J Monde Balsam (acces-



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# sport

# In the effort to turn Newcastle into a First Division club, Rob Andrew is assembling a veritable United Nations of rugby

Just before the England-Ireland of Ireland but Gregor Townsend and match, Dick Best wrote that if the Irish selectors were to behave rationally, they would hold their training wates. Arwel Thomas, the Weish outsessions at London Irish rather than in Dublin. He didn't mean the Lon-reappearance, plays for Bristol.
don Irish club would have a dispro-Keith Wood, of Ireland, who was portionate number of players in the national side, but that more of them would be playing in the Courage First Division - and so it would be easier for all concerned to meet at Sunbury rather than across the Irish Sea.

That is clearly the way things are going as much for Scottish and Welsh players as for losh. In the effort to turn Newcastle into a First Division club, Rob Andrew is assembling a verita-ble United Nations of rugby. Northampton have playing for them, in the backs, not only Jonathan Bell

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copple and

side-half until Neil Jenkins made his

considered the best young hooker in the world until he was suddenly dropped, is off to Harlequins, along with Gareth Llewellyn of Wales. Wasps have hired Glyn Llewellyn also from Neath, who won nine Welsh caps in 1990-91, and Matthew Lewis from Bridgend, who may - who knows? win many Welsh caps in the future.

However, if Lewis and others like him are to receive fair play, the Welsh selectors will have to change their tra-

ditional attitude. There are signs of

such a change in the initial choice of

Bristol's Thomas. But in the past Welsh players who were turning out for English clubs were virtually ig-nored unless they were appearing for a university, hospital or service side or, of course, for London Welsh. Indeed, there used to be an understanding, or so it was said, that if a player was able to appear for London Welsh but chose some other English club instead, he would be ignored by the Welsh selectors. If this was the case, incidentally, I fail to see how Geoff Windsor-Lewis of Richmond could have won two caps in 1960. Jeff Young played not only for Harrogate but also for London Welsh and the RAF-and anyway his uncle was a selector. Ron Jones

turned out briefly for Coventry,

while Dai Davies played solely for the



Somerset Police, as John Robins did

for Birkenhead Park, Before the war, Claude Davey and Wilfred Wooller both appeared for Sale, though they were more strongly associated in the public mind with their Welsh clubs, respectively Swansca and Cardiff.

The Scots, by contrast have a more gled thing, which is mostly to the cosmopolitan attitude. Hamish Keith of Wasps and Micky Grant of Harlequins went unpenalised for not playing for London Scottish. So I could go on, but it would be tedious. The Welsh have always thought that the only clubs worthy of serious consideration were Cardiff, Llanelli. Newport and Swansea, with one or two others enjoying periods of intermittent prosperity. The Scots have been prepared to cast their net more widely. The Irish, separated by the sea and by a selection system which seems to consist of a perpetual series of inter-provincial trial matches, have

been more like the Welsh, though quite without the Welsh's conceit. That conceit is, after the buffeting of the past decade, a poor, bedrag-

good. In the past the danger to Welsh rughy was the northern league. The Courage First Division is now set to replace the league. The profession-alisation of rugby union means that the players will go where the money is. And most of the money is in England - though few of us would have predicted that Saracens would turn out to be better heeled than

Wasps, or Newcastle than Bath. There is, however, one important difference. If Scott Gibbs or Richard Webster went north, he was lost to rugby union. When Gareth Llewellyn goes to Harlequins, he will still he available for selection for the Welsh team. The Welsh Rugby Union fool-ishly tried to prevent him from going to The Stoop on a technicality.

But it now seems to have relinquished the attempt. It would almost certainly have come to grief in one or other of the European Courts.

Likewise, the Rugby Football Union would be wise to give up completely its attempt to limit the number of those insultingly and inaccurately labelled overseas players in the First Division. I think it probably has done so. The tide of commercialism has already overflown petty English nationalism. This is all to the good too. Club power is fine. But I do not want to see British Isles rugby in the position where countries are dictated to by clubs over the composition - and the training periods - of the national sides. In other words, I do not want to see rugby go the way of football.

# **Broncos seeking** instant response

ome signs up here," said Barry Maranta, surveying the streets of Charlton. "You get di-rections to a Russian submarine,

but not to our ground." It would indeed, as the chairman of London Broncos indicated, be easier for a stranger to find the submersible moored nearby on the Thames than The Valley. The Broncos signs will go up, but it is the first few weeks of the Super League season, which begins this week-end, that will be the pointer to whether the capital's rugby league club will sink or swim.

London, upon whose ability to survive and thrive much of the credibility of Super League rests, begin their campaign with a demanding trip to Halifax on Sunday, before starting their home programme against the other great imponderables of the new competition, Paris, next Thursday.

By then, the game as a whole will have a much better idea of the Broncos' potential. Maranta is unequivocal about the make-or-break nature of it all. "If it doesn't work now, it never will," he said. "

No club has welcomed summer rugby more enthusiastically than London. Indeed, according to the affidavit that the Eu-topean Super League chief ball ground in England. "End to end and sideline to sideline." executive, Maurice Lindsay, The tougher streak that the tabled in Sydney recently, the Broncos need alongside that club was unlikely to have carried on if that revolution had not

believe, they will attract bigger ward, Gavin Allen. He is crowds than they have so far lured to The Valley, not merely for a match but for an afternoon of entertainment, but and Darren Shaw, are already they will first have to break down the psychological barrier that separates them from large numbers of potential support-

ers in south-east London. It might be only 20 minutes from Charing Cross, but it might as well be on another planet in the minds of many Londoners. "Once we get people here, they will come back. son Tullett.

Dave Hadfield follows the signs to rugby's Super League which gets under way this weekend

The player the Broncos have

chosen to spotlight this week,

however, is the one Englishman

in their opening match line-up. Junior Paul, a winger from

nearby Blackheath, who turned

up to pre-season trials last

Broncos' first team in the win-

ter season, a self-confessed

nightmare against Sheffield, but London have shown faith in

him, both for his own potential

and for his symbolic importance

as a precursor of the club's long-

tential players out there," said

the Broncos' chief executive,

Robbie Moore, of the metrop-

olis the club must try to woo.

"Junior now has the benefit of

having worked with the team

and feeling much more a part of it. He knows now he will get

Paul, a quietly-spoken 24-

year-old, squirming slightly un-

der the pressure of others'

expectations, is a willing learn-

er. "I tend to listen to anything

anyone at the club tells me," he

said. "I've only been in the game a year and they have

been in it since they were kids."

The Broncos' reserve side

won promotion in the Alliance League last season and they

launch an Under-19 Academy

side this time, mainly com-

posed of young Londoners,

leavened with a couple of schol-

arship players from Australia.

of the Broncos and of Super

League as a whole hinges. They

have much going for them, not least landlords at The Valley with

experience of exile themselves

who are solidly behind the en-

terorise. But the coming months

will determine whether the club

is ever to reach the heights to

But it is on the performances of the big boys - very big boys, in Allen's case - that the viability

all the help he needs."

There are thousands of po-

term strategy.

Paul played one match for the

The game has a very high conversion rate," Maranta said. In order to convert enough people finally to make rugby league in London a commercial success, however, the Broncos must both entertain and win. Last season, it would have been a harsh critic who called their matches dull, but the Broncos finished on the wrong side of high-scoring contests on too many occasions. This time, a new Australian coach, Tony Currie, hopes to retain the spectacle while adding some

"I'm not rethinking the priority that is placed on enter-tainment," said Currie, a top-class centre with Queens-land, Australia and - for two seasons - Leeds in his playing days. "But I'm stressing that for 50 per cent of the time, when you haven't got the ball, the game is about defending. In the past, the Broncos have some-

times got lazy over that." "But we will still throw the ball around," he said, casting an eye over the broad acres of what was once the biggest club foot-

commitment to expansive rugby is epitomised by the club's major new signing, the power-In the summer, they firmly ful and punishing prop forearmarked as the enforcer that the side has lacked and younger forwards, like Tony Mestrov relishing the prospect of playing with him.

Allen, a force in Queensland's State of Origin series victory last season, will make his competitive debut for the Broncos at Thrum Hall on Saturday evening, along with three oth-er new Australian recruits: Greg Barwick, John Minto and Tul-

## Gallacher turns on his old style | Graf takes care



Family affair: Bernard Gallacher, who captained Europe to Ryder Cup success last year, and his son, Jamie, head for victory in their first-round match at the Sunningdale foursomes yesterday. They beat Ken and Jamie Ferrie at the first extra hole

# of business on and off court

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Key Biscayne

Steffi Graf's ability to unburden herself on the court has never been more crucial as she prepares for the demands of the summer season while her father-manager remains in prison, awaiting trial accused of tax evasion on her millions.

Peter Graf's predicament appears to have had a fatalistic effect on the Wimbledon champion. "I'm not afraid of anything mymore, including death," she said this week in an interview with the New York Times.

The question of mortality was broached after mention was made of Graf's boyfriend, Michael Bartels, a German racing driver. "You can't stop someone from doing what they care about," she said. "But I knew Ayrton Senna a little bit, and what bothers me is that a year after somebody dies it's like they're forgotten, like they were never there at all. That to me is scarier than dying, that people react that way."

Her relief to be playing - and comparatively pain-free at present - has been intensified by the need to involve herself in complex business issues in her

"I don't enjoy business," she said, "but this whole thing made me learn a lot about people, the way they click. I never had to deal with this type of people before because my father kent them away from me, but I got the pic-ture very quick. It's been an awakening, and not the usual

"It's been interesting but depressing. I'm glad I never had to deal with these people before. I spent the start of the year talking to investigators, choosing lawyers, caring about book-keeping and kind of taking responsibility from A to Z for what's happening to my father.

"I think I've been dealing with group of people who care

NML: Derrot S Arohem 1: Montreal 4 NY Islandes 1: Philadelphia 3 Harrbord 0: Toronto 4 Calgay 2: Vancouser 4 Los Angeles 1. WORLD CHAMPPONSHIPS (Lithuania) Pool 0: Elektroniaes Lanuana 11 Belgium 2; Bulgana 3 Israel 3 Kounass' Yugoslava 7 Australia 1: Spain1 South Korea 1.

Rugby Union
Dron Waller, the Wellington Humcanes
forward, has been suspended for one
week after being cited for an incident
in a Super-12 match against Queens
land on Sunday. Waller was ruled to have
used a host on a Queensland been had

used a boot on a Queensland player held on the ground at a ruck.

The Ireland management team of Pat Whelan and Murray Kidd are set to be re-appointed for the 1996-97season. The Irish Rugby Football Union is anxious to give them time to formulate their plans for next season, when Australia will play six matches in Ireland before the Pive Nations' Championship.

about money, image and ego only - even the ones I'm paying. This man [her father] sits in jail, and the only people around him are lawyers, and the other 23 hours he's by himself. It's very hard on our family, and if this is business, 1 don't like business,

"I want to see what I'm going to do with the rest of my life now. But outside of my tennis, it's all kind of a mystery. And with all the problems I'm always having,

tennis is still a challenge. That is a business she appreciates. Her form in defeating Mary Joe Fernandez, 6-1, 6-0, in the fourth round of the Lipton Championships here was so outstanding that after the players had split the opening two games the match became a showcase of Graf's skills.

"It was all her out there." the ninth-seeded Fernandez said. "She had answers for everything I was throwing at her." The American is accustomed to loshead of of 14-0 shows. Occasionally, Fernandez has created opportunities to win. Sometimes she has frozen in the dazzle of the German's shotmaking. Here, she must have wondered why she had bothered to turn up.

Graf declared herself to be "astonished" by her performance. "I felt I could hit whatever I felt I wanted to do. I could have kept on going."

The reverse was true of Graf's compatriot, the thirdseeded Anke Huber, who was flattened in the quarter-finals by the tall American No 8 seed. Lindsay Davenport, 6-0, 6-1.

"I've had a really good last couple of weeks," said Davenport, who pushed Graf hard in the semi-finals of the recent event at Indian Wells, California, before losing, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

"I didn't have chance to find my rhythm," said Huber, who was the runner-up to Monica Seles at the Australian Open. "She put too much pressure on me from the first ball. Everything was going in."

The right

result in 35 minutes

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#### **Tough task ahead for Alicock**

Tony Allcock faces his toughest match to date when he continues the defence of his singles title at the World Championships in Adelaide today.

from their three previous section outings in the tournament. Allcock coasted to two 25-9 wins yesterday, first disposing of sults - it keeps me in the driving Western Samoa's Famianu Amisseat with my destiny in my own tuanai and then Thira Mathai of Thailand. However, he later admitted: "With respect to both to winning ways when he takes my opponents, they were on Guernsey's Jon Queripel matches I was expected to win. The Welsh hope, John Price, matches I was expected to win. It will be a different story against Noel. He is a top-class player."

Scotland's Commonwealth sie, beaten by Allcock in the United States, today.

world final at Worthing four years ago, was also in impressive form yesterday. His 25-17 win over freland's Sammy Allen who had beaten New Zealand's Rowan Brassey 25-9 earlier in the day - pushed him into a clear lead at the top of his section. He meets Hong Kong's Noel kennedy, with both players boasting 100 per cent records comeback by Barry Wilson of Norfolk Island earlier in the day,

winning by a 25-22 margin. "That was two important rehands." Corsie said. Allen, meanwhile, will be bidding to get back

Games champion, Richard Cor- He takes on Tom Dion, of the

Calzaghe wins another title

Joe Calzaghe, the British super- was conceding eight pounds to middleweight champion, has Bobbi Joe Edwards, the brothbeen voted the Best Young er of Diane Modahi. Boxer of the Year.

Calzaghe, 24 last Saturday, came top of the Boxing Writers' Club poll by an overwhelming margin from the Sheffield middleweight Ryan Rhodes. He has relinquished his European will receive the award at the title to prepare his challenge for Boxing Writers' Dinner at The the World Boxing Council mid-

Savoy, London on 11 April The Newbridge southpaw Calzaghe, who is co-managed by fights as a professional, is Mickey Duff and Terry Lawless, mandatory challenger to the has won all of his 16 fights, 15 new WBC champion, Keith inside distance, including nine Holmes, who has been ordered in the first round.

World long jump chempion wan Pedroso, a leading gold medal hope for Cuba in the summer Olympics in Atlanta, un-derwent surgery on Monday for a thigh injury, leaving him only a short time to get back to top form for the Games. He will be be in a plaster cast for a month.

which it aspires.

BACAMINITUMI

BIOLAND SQUAD (Europeam Chempionshipe, Herning, Dermark, 14-21 Aprilip Mon's singles: D Hall (Essey, P Rouwles (Nort), A Meloint Surgey), P Back (Mitts, Hen's doubles: S Archer (Nort)) and Limit (Janua). P Posting (Goods and J Robertson (Northarist, Mosener's singless: J Mangardige (Ners), J Mann (Marwools), A Number by Darrill, T Groves (Gooses). Women's doubles: J Bradbury (Duon) and J Wright (Gussey). J Desire (Lincis) and N Beat (Bucks'). Alkand doubless Archer ond Bradbury. Poning and Wight, Robertson and L Cole (Worst), Hurt and Mugandige, Teams events (Hall, Hundles, Archer, Harr, Ponting, Maggerdige, Mann, Bradbury, Wright.

NSIA: Şan Antonio 95 New Jersey 88; Utah 103 Dalas 88; Portland 94 Proladalphia 71.

to winning ways when he takes:

On Guernsey's Jon Queripiet.

The Weish hope, John Price, surrendered his unbeaten record when he lost 25-20 to Zimbabwe's Mark McCormick. He takes on Tom Dion, of the United States, today.

Sanother title

His only victory by decision came 13 months ago when he was conceding eight pounds to Bobbi Joe Edwards, the brother of Diane Modahl.

Calzaghe makes the first defence of his British title against West Ham's Mark Delaney at Brentwood on 20 April.

Richie Woodhall, of Telford, has relinquished his European title to prepare his challenge for the World Boxing Council middleweight crown in the summer. The 27-year-old, unbeaten in 21 fights as a professional, is mandatory challenger to the new WBC champion, Keith Holmes, who has been ordered to defend by the end of June.

Bowls

Bowls

Bowls

World Champion, Keith Research (Name of Husbard 25-2) to Salen (Mark) 25-9; Passay 25-9; Passa

SPORTING DIGEST

Section D: Argenting by Zamba 29-18; Fip by Uni-ed States 20-18; Israel by Western Somaa 23-9; Israel by Argentina 28-15; Wares by United States 30-13; Western Samoa by Zamoa 20-19

Britan's Olympic boxing medal chances took to have been hit by the withdrawal of the Darlington welterweight, Michael Hall, from England's squad for the European Championships in Velle, Dermark, starting on Saturday, Hall, who has a virus, joins Alan Vaughan, the Merseyside light-welterweight, and bantamweight Michael Glibbons, who have also been eliminated from the championships which is the sole Olympic qualifying tournament for European boxes – and only competitors who reach the quarter-finals can be entered for Atlanta. Quarter-invals can the entered of Position Distance SQUAD (Europeen Championaries, Vejle, Desmark, 30 March-7 Aprill: Fly. D. Costallo (Holmglon); Bartaur I, Eedie (Germ-n); Feather D Burke (Saisbury); Light I Per-cock (Saisbury); Welter M Jones (German; Light-addiller C Bessey (Army); Biddler S Ben-dell (Mumph); Light-heavy; Jibranch (Reputs); Heavy: F Obsessis (Lyrn).

Manoj Prabhakar announced his retire-ment from international cricket yesterday and complained about the way he had been treated by the national selectors. Prabhakar, who played 39 tests and 96 one-day internationals, was dropped from the Indian team on Saturday for the imited over tournaments in Singapore and Shanah and also dropped from the team half-way through the World Cup after his bowling was severely purished by the Sn Lanken betsmen.

Lanian Datament Difficult day of four) Sydney: Sauth Australia 553 (8 Bierest 1.05; D Leimman 21) and 234 (8 Dohman 90): New South Wates 567 (M Bewan 97; M Waugh 57) and 323 for 9 M Bewan 57; P Waugh 57) and 323 for 9 M Bewan 57; Districtive 6-133) March drawn. Melbourner: Quieresiand-142 and 338 (M Love 88; T Doderreide 5-70): Visiona 255 (D Jene:

TODAY'S NUMBER 54

The signings that Barry Fry has made in two and a haif sea sons as the manager of Birmingham City. His latest acquisition is the defender Martin Grainger from Brentford for 69, M hasprovice 5-7-1 and 226 for 5 fW Arres 100. Noticed with by five viciletts. Hoberts 18-1 mans 35 for 9 dec 18 Devento 93. D Boon 91 per 183 5 forg \$10. Thoday 1-33; Western Australia 35 ft Langer 120, and 18-5 ft Northy 62 no. Western Australia with by five wickets.

Victoria 10 3 3 4 21.4
South Australia to the Western Australia in the final of Adelade from 10 filterch 3 45%.
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Paul Wilkinson, the Middlesbrough striker, has rejected a move to First Di-vision Portsmouth on loan. TRANSFERS: Rose Davidson Intrander: Shell Uid to Chester: Brian Launders in disclorit Crystal Palace to Options (con.). Britzmattokal Priembly (Varandin): Croate 2 (Samac 74, Vacur 78) Islae ().

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21 Penalty Politics I Caudy (Tottenham) 1 march
from 30th March, M Le Tissian (Southampton)
I march from 30th March: © Petrosco (Chebea)
I match from 30th March: C Short (Everton) 1
match from 30th March, S Stade (Fortenham)

THIRD DIVISION Hereford v Lincola City GM VALIGHALL, CONFERENCE Gateshead v Altrineham (7.45).

MONDAYS LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Pre-mineralist: Southernoton 1 Covertoy O. Endsleigh lescerance Leegue Taird Division: Dovicased Managed O. Cité Veschall Conferences Dagen-Insurance Lengue Tailed Division: Douclate of Manched Co. GM Vasachada Confirmance Dogen-nam to Bath Cry 1: Highrestort 2 Steverings 1. Leitifland Lengue Premiere Division: Winstord 4. Berrow 3: First Division Cap semi-final second log Great Herwood O Lancater 2 (agg. 1-0, Beng-er Homes Langue Premier Division: Worcester 1. Sactive Town 1. Isola Lengues First Division; Cryoton 1. Egham O. Uniget Sussex Country LanguerFirst Division: Prescribaven 4 Haidham O Portina LenguesFirst Divisions Emmogram 5. Steffield Ltd 1. Blockoum 4 West Bromoch O. Worse 5. LenguesFirst Divisions Emmogram 5. Steffield Ltd 1. Blockoum 4 West Bromoch O. Worse 5. LenguesFirst Divisions Emmogram 6. Havos Insorrance Combination First Division Chetca 2 Brighton 2. Malacel 3 Bristol Chy 1. Over Usin O Westord 2. Sevendon 1. West Hom 1; Totterham 4 Cryster Passex 0.

ice hockey Manchester Storm, who have won a place in the new British Super League just one season after being founded, will be Britain's representatives in the

Tennis

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Tennis

lag: ESSEN UIG VIEN. BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Prender Division: New-SON AFC Viesson (7.45), Bakood v Cambratge Un-Mediand Devision: Scilmus v Paget, Southern Olys-sion: Poole v 1 ato 17 451.

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PEWSON EXPRENDICE Premior Division: Farchism - February Solam v Halstead; Sudbuy Wonders v COVER. erham - Palestanet, Soham v Helstebat, Sudbury Wan-delers v Comun.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division:
Pennin v Catherne (7 45).
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Division: President's Cap semi-finali Division.

NUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Lengtey Sports v Peaconaven & Telecombe.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Partnergog v Lincardinal
17.451. Lengtes Cup sent-final first-leg: Ceaner-ton v Contant Guar Nomads 17.451.

new European League next season. TODAY'S FIXTURES

Transver v Notis Courny 17.0); West Bromwich y Sheffield Wednesday (7.0). Second Divisione Barnsley v Aston Villa (7.0), Burnley v Manfaled (7.15), Hustocrafiel v Beachood (7.0); Public Ry Viyla (7.0); Prestor v Sunderland (7.0); Rotherham v Isucetter (7.0). Third Division: Bury distriction (7.0); Chester v Dorodsser (7.0); Chesterfield v Stockport (7.0). Rechable v Canada (7.0); Rechable v Ca

FA YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP Semi-final first leg: Liverpool v Crystal Polace (7.D) Rugby Union CLIB MATCH: Moserry v Poyal Air Force (7 30) Basketball

Burowesser LEAGUE Burningham v Lecester (8.0); Leceants v Sheffield (8.0); Manchester v Ocnoseg-er (8.0). Other sports

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A paradiscript New York (1994) 1995 -



# Lloyd in line as Illingworth stands down

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Five days of confusion over the future direction of the England cricket team ended at Lord's vesterday with Ray Illingworth standing down as team manager and the game's coach for the national side. Illingworth is to continue as chairman of selectors, with David Lloyd of Lancashire the No names were being men-tioned officially last night, alfavourite to work alongside him as coach.

Following last week's confusion, when Illingworth's only rival for re-election as chairman of Botham. Of those, Lloyd would selectors. David Graveney, was appear to be the favourite. He forced to pull out of the contest under pressure from his employers at the Professional Crickambitious. And everybody eters' Association, the situation degenerated into farce even before the Test and County Cricket Board's 10-man executive had assembled at Lord's to discuss England's bleak winter.

Illingworth had chosen to pre-empt some of the debate by announcing in a national newspaper that he was standing down as England team manager, while remaining as chairman

The TCCB claimed it knew nothing of this decision and only late in the day did it acknowledge Illingworth's new role, and the consequent vacancy it created, by announcing: "The executive committee have decided they will

Playing career: England. Somerset, Worcestershire, Queensland, Durham, 102

For: Powers of inspiration and

Against: Two-thros of above

are unproven - the England

side he captained was not

runs at 33.54; 383 wickets - runs at 22.67; 147 wickets

only. An announcement will be made in due course.

The TCCB is therefore apparently willing to return to a structure which had previously heen considered inappropriate. Illingworth had always maintained that there was room for only one at the top, and to this authorities looking for a new end Keith Fletcher was ditched as manager to allow Illingworth to take on his two roles.

> though there can only be a handful of candidates: David Lloyd, Phil Neale, John Emburey and, as an outside bet. Ian said in a radio interview yeswants to further themselves, to better themselves. If anybody at international level perhaps says: We d like you to do this, you d think seriously about it.

> Lloyd added: "It's nice to be linked with such an important job but at the moment I am the Lancashire coach only.

> Illingworth will continue as chairman of selectors until the end of the 1996 season. Having insisted that he is the dressing room type, the ingredients are there for a clash of wills. It is also unclear what will happen to the specialist coaches. John Edrich and Peter Lever.

> The TCCB also announced that the selection panel will com-

Pros and cons: four in the frame to coach England

**David Lloyd** 

Current position: Lancs

coach, England U-19 coach.

the duration of this summer lectors and, when appointed, the team coach and captain. Papers went out to the counties last night for nominations for the two selectors. The selection panel will be responsible for the selection of the England team for the six Combill Tests (three each against India and Pakistan) and the six Texaco Trophy one-day internationals, as well as the winter touring parties. After that, their responsibilities cease

It is expected that it will take at least a fortnight before the result of the ballot for the selectors will be known. However, a TCCB source indicated that the question of the coach's position would have to be settled before Easter. The season begins on 13 April and the first Texaco Trophy match is on 23 May.

Mike Soper, the Surrey chair-man, said last night: "I'm just sad it's dragging on, but if they come out with the right result, then fair enough. My only concern is for English cricket. I just want this to be sorted out as quickly as possible for the sake of the game."

Whatever appointments for this summer are made, it seems certain that there will be further changes later in the year. The TCCB said yesterday that the working party under David Acfield "will be making their recommendations to the Board meeting in August with regard to the long-term administration. selection and management of England teams". More time appoint a coach, not manager, for prise Illingworth, two elected se- for more things to go wrong?

skills and track record, both



Paul Ince trains at Bisham Abbey yesterday as he relishes his England recall for tonight's game at Wembley

# Venables has faith in Ferdinand

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

The irony was not lost on Les Ferdinand. Having been largeignored by Terry Venables when he was scoring without pause for Newcastle, he has been chosen as soon as the goals have dried up.

Surely some mistake? No, once Alan Shearer was ruled out with a groin injury Venables had little choice. To pass over Ferdinand, after one start in nine squad appearances, and play his new recruit Robbie Fowler would have been a snub too far. He would have lost the player for good.

rur: riuge knowledge; forward thinking respect from current players.

Against: Lack of meaningful management or coaching experience – just one England A tour. Ferdinand will play at centreforward for England against Bulgaria at Wembley tonight. Although he partnered Shearer in the last international, it is the first time he has filled the No 9 shirt for Venables.

Teddy Sheringham returns to support him while Steve McMa-

left out - Stuart Pearce is tonight's captain. Venables, who rarely con-

**RACING'S RICHEST PRIZE** 

firms substitutes before matchday, said Fowler would be on the bench. He will be an impatient spectator. "When you come on as sub, it is nice to score to prove you should have been on from the start," Fowler said. Ferdinand said he had "start-

ed to think the fact I was not scoring goals for Newcastle might affect my England prospects. With one goal in five games for Newcastle, he may find being away from the title race relaxes him enough to rediscover his goal touch. "It might be nice to get away from it. It is a very in-

**ENGLAND** v Bulgaria at Wembley tonight, Kick-off Spm

naman and, after a vear's absence. Paul Ince, are recalled. The other change from December's 1-1 draw with Portugal is Gareth Southgate, who makes his first international start in place of the injured Tony Adams. David Platt has been

be partnered by Sheringham. rather than the unpredictable Faustino Asprilla. "You can't blame it all on him," Ferdinand said, "but he does play in a different way. He has a wealth of talent but is difficult to read, you never know what he is going to do next. That he does not speak

the language does not help."
Paul Ince would sympathise. Yesterday he said communication problems had hindered his start in Italy. They still cause problems: his latest sending-off, for Internazionale on Sunday, came after he disputed a yellow card wrongly given for "div-ing". His subsequent failure to leave the field for three minutes could result in a long ban, making a good performance tonight

all the more important. Ince, who last played in the abandoned game in Dublin. said: "It has been a long year. Although I am a strong character I wondered, at the back of my mind, if I was going to get back in. It was getting close to the summer, he had a settled squad, I was not sure what was going to happen. I had to start playing well at Inter, and I have. The difference was the arrival of Roy Hodgson as manager. If he had not come I would

It will certainly be a relief to not be at Inter now. He has got the whole team working.

"I knew I was good enough. it was a case of adjusting to Italian life. It is never easy, whatever job you do, to live in a new country." Ince said he nearly returned to England in the autumn but Massimo Moratti, the president who went out on a limb to buy him, persuaded him to remain for the season.

Morratti's persuasive powers may be tested again on Friday, when Ince tells him if he will stay for two more years, or exercise his escape clause. His wife. Claire, and son, Thomas, have Things like Sunday's sendingoff do not help." Ince said, "but it is not just a football decision."

Ince partners Paul Gascoigne for the first time since Venables' opening match two years ago. "If we can gel we have a chance to build up a partnership," Ince said. If they do it could be the beginning of the end for David Platt, who took his omission with typical equanimity. While his experience means he will not

he discarded he may not regain his former prominence.

Venables emphasised that Ince and Gascoigne would have to be disciplined in midfield as Bulgaria are excellent on the counter-attack. This may tax Gascoigne, who is inclined to chase the ball, but failure to do so would expose a central defence with less than five hours' international experience between them.

"Bulgaria are as potent an attacking force as there will be in the tournament," Venables added. "They were underestimated in the World Cup and not settled as well as the player. still are, yet they have added players since then and are outstanding individually.

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A draw, Venables' fourth in five matches, would be a decent result. Even so, a win would not go amiss, if only to make up for having to watch England in grey. They debut their new away strip. Described as indigo blue, it looks more like battleship grey. One hopes there will be more colour in the performance.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with

Current position: North-

amptonshire player-coach.

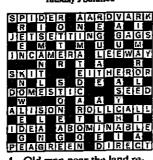


ACROSS Meat cooked in ovens (7) Cotton fabric beloved of Pygmalion (7)

Rascals and wits going to opera-house (9) 10 One leaving row of traffic?

11 Publicity given to cricket-side, broadcasting (2.3) 12 Seamen to trim palms (9) 14 Light a firework (9,5) 17 End tennis-match in disarray and disappointment

21 Toper given unlimited choice in local, it turns out



Old man near the land re-

Delightful thing, having rent reduced (3)

fitting (5)

7 Apprentice damaged retina with key (7)

8 Layabout taking in poetry in reluctant fashion (8)

13 Tin icon smashed by col-

prudent leaving sultanate out (9) 16 Loans for improvements?

18 Getting rid of hempen fabric (7)

turns with lengths of mater- 20

22 Hospital boundary, per-25 Small strike in sympathy

Ghost of an idea (6) A river once more backs up

Hunting mainly around university for marine ani-

Long chat about security

league, authoritatively (11) Philanderer would be more

Absolute bliss as outbreak of rain engulfs vehicle? (7) Tenant without key and du-

olicate? (6)

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23 Bottle never broken (5)

24 Descendant rebuked for

25 Standard names for high pointers to north? (4-5)

26 Piece, of ten gems, in new

27 For example, a low cart re-

DOWN

holding lire (5)

setting (7)

and falls (7)

#### Kinkladze rumours anger Lee

Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman, yesterday forcibly denied that Georgi Kinkladze is bound for Barcelona or Internazionale. "It's total rubbish," he said,

and the reports that we have given Georgi a massive wage rise to keep him happy is again utter rubbish." Lee insists that the brilliant

Georgian midfielder has just signed a three-year contract. "It looks to me as though certain people think it's a good idea to try and create unrest in our dressing-room," he said. "We are contending with idiots writ-

Another overseas midfielder

Premiership club is the Serb Sasa Curcic, who has pledged his future to Bolton. "They gave me the opportu-

nity to play here and I am determined to repay that both to the club and to the supporters," said Curcic, who cost Bolton a club record £1.5m from Partizan Belgrade.

Brian Laws, the Grimsby manager, is to seek a personal hearing after being charged with misconduct by the Football Association over the Ivano Bonetti affair. "It is about time the truth was

told," said Laws, who was charged after a lengthy FA in-vestigation into events in his staying put at another struggling team's dressing-room when

Bonetti ended up with a fractured jaw. Laws maintains Bonetti came off worse when he flung a plate of sandwiches in anger, while others have claimed a blow was struck.

Everton's transfer-listed defender Matt Jackson has joined Charlton on a month's loan. Surgery on a groin strain will deny Sunderland the services of striker Phil Gray for the rest of the season.

Feyenoord have been fined a total of £38,000 and threatened with suspension from European competition because of their fans violent behaviour during the Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

# **ARL blames Lindsay for rift**

tempt to create a rebel compe-

tition against the ARL.

**Rugby League** 

DAVE HADFIELD

The Australian Rugby League chairman. Ken Arthurson, has expressed the hope that the rift with Britain can be healed, but also launched a fierce attack on the role of Maurice Lindsay in

the row over Super League. Arthurson, basking in the ARL's victory over Super League in Australia, said: "We are looking to build for the future, but there is a rift between Australia and England that needs to be healed."

"It saddens me that nobody

has done more to widen that rift

than Maurice Lindsay. His rep-

utation in this country has been

any individual disagreement a hint that it may be possible to revive international competition between the two countries. Lindsay, the European Super League's chief executive who re-

turned from Australia yesterday after his failed attempt, was not available for comment, Halifax have unveiled plans for a £5m redevelopment of their antiquated Thrum Hall ground. The work, which will

begin in October with the build-

ing of a new 4,200-seater stand.

partly paid for, the club hopes by Lottery funding.

Halifax will be known as the Despite that, says Arthurson, Bluesox from this season, their the game in the two countries previous nickname - the Bombers - having signally failed to catch on. "Whatever nickcan prove itself bigger than name we came up with offended somebody, so we went for a nickname that offended everybody equally." Nigel Wood, Halifax's chief executive, said.

St Helens will have Joey Hayes back on the wing in place of injured Alan Hunte for their opening Super League game at Workington on Sunday. Their side is otherwise unchanged from the one that beat Widnes in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

will take two years and will be Broncos seek response, page 27

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